WEDNESDAY
May 3, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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PLEA FOR ALTERNATIVE

Govt. to take relook at execution by hanging

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GOA SUMMIT

Russia, China, Pak. to attend SCO meet

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CENTRE'S GO-AHEAD

Meghalaya likely to restart coal mining

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DATA POINT

Communal tensions and Ram Navami

Violent incidents rising over the last decade

OPINION » PAGE 9

THRILLING WIN

Capitals pip Titans in low-scoring contest

SPORT » PAGE 15

Go First suspends flights, files for bankruptcy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Low-cost carrier Go First has filed for bankruptcy at the National Company Law Tribunal and suspended its flight operations for May 3, 4, and 5 over mounting losses, which it has attributed to delays in the delivery of Pratt & Whitney engines, resulting in the grounding of half its fleet.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has served a show-cause notice on the airline for the sudden cancellation of flights, and has asked it to submit its plan for resumption of flights. The airline said once the NCLT admitted its plea, the court would appoint an insolvency resolution professional who would take over Go First's operations. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said it was "incumbent upon the airline to make alternative arrangements for passengers".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

Bilkis Bano case convicts playing for time: SC judge

11 convicts seek adjournment by two weeks to file counter-affidavits; Justice K.M. Joseph says it is 'more than obvious' that they do not want his Bench to hear the petition against their early release

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Justice K.M. Joseph, on a Division Bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday, said it was "more than obvious" that the men released early from life imprisonment in the case of gang rape of Bilkis Bano and murder of her family during the 2002 Gujarat riots were raising a maze of procedural objections in successive court hearings to avoid his Bench.

He noted that time was running out for him, with his retirement days away. "I think it should be more than clear to you what is happening... So, the problem for me is I am retiring on June 16, but my last working day is May 19 [last working day before court closes for summer vacation till July 2]... It is obvious they do not want us to hear the matter. It is more than obvious," Justice Joseph, accompanied on the Bench by Justice B.V. Nagarathna, addressed advocate Shobha Gupta, Ms. Bano's counsel.

> Then it is all the more important that they should not succeed... Such tactics should not be used in court
>
> **INDIRA JAISING**
> Senior advocate

> Released convicts should not be allowed to interrupt justice in this way. **VRINDA GROVER,** Advocate

The oral remark came after the courtroom rang with submissions made by the lawyers for the 11 released convicts, who claimed that they were not served notice of the case. They sought an adjournment by at least two weeks to file their counter-affidavits to Ms. Bano's petition challenging the decision of the State of Gujarat, endorsed by the Centre, to remit their life sentences.

"It is more than clear to all of us what is happening," Ms. Gupta told the judge. "Then it is all the more important that they should not succeed... Such tactics should not be used in court," senior advocate Indira Jaising addressed the Bench. Advocate Vrinda Grover said that the released convicts "should not be allowed to interrupt justice in this way". "We have given them two weeks to file their counter. The next possible date of hearing is May 17. These people are already out of jail. If there is merit in your case, you will succeed. If there is no merit, you will not... The matter would have taken a different turn if it had come to my court earlier..." Justice Joseph said. The convicts were released on August 15, 2022.

Ms. Gupta said the petition was filed in November 2022. It came up for hearing before a Bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela Trivedi on December 13. Justice Trivedi had recused himself.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Reference to Bajrang Dal in Congress manifesto upsets BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress on Tuesday announced its election manifesto, which pitched Karnataka as "Sarva Janaangada Shantiya Thota" (a garden of peace for all communities), quoting lines of poet Kuvempu, and announced that it would take "firm and decisive action against individuals and organisations spreading hatred among communities on the grounds of caste or religion".

It went on to say that action, including imposing a ban, would be taken against "organisations like Bajrang Dal, PFI, or others promoting enmity or hatred, whether among majority or minority communities".

The BJP, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading from the front, took exception to the reference to Bajrang Dal in the manifesto. Mr. Modi, at Hosapete, said the Congress had decided to "lock up Lord Hanuman, just as it had locked up Lord Sri Rama earlier." Chief Minister described Bajrang Dal members as "devotees of Hanuman".

DETAILS
» PAGE 6

Govt. extends date to opt for higher EPF pension to June 26

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has extended the time to submit joint options for claiming higher Employees' Provident Fund pension till June 26. The deadline was May 3. The decision was taken based on the representations received from various Central trade unions and pensioners' organisations.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) said it had received more than 12 lakh applications so far.

"The online facility was to remain available only till May 3. In the meantime, many representations have been received from various quarters seeking extension of time. The issue has been considered and it has been decided that in order to provide a larger window of opportunity and in order to enable all eligible persons to file their applications, the timeline for filing applications would now be till June 26," the EPFO said in a release.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The GST collection rises to record high in April 2023

1.87 In ₹ lakh crore. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) in April rose by 12% from ₹1.68 lakh crore in April 2022, according to the Finance Ministry. The highest-ever tax collected on a single day was on April 20, 2023. PTI

Coal production rises in April 2023, says Coal India Ltd (CIL)

7.7 In percentage. The CIL said that the supply of coal to users will increase as summer begins. Coal is used to generate about 70% of the electricity in the country and its availability is being shored up to meet the increased demand during summer. PTI

The share of families that have been victims of online fraud

39 In percentage. In a survey conducted by LocalCircles, Indian families claimed to have experienced financial fraud in the last three years, with only 24% receiving their funds back. The highest share of responders had experienced card fraud. PTI

Europe's inflation remained high throughout April

7 In percentage. The consumer prices in 20 countries using the euro currency jumped from 6.9% in March, according to Eurostat. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and fuel, slowed slightly though high at 5.6%, while food price inflation eased. AP

Russians killed in the Russia-Ukraine war since December

20,000 As forces from Russia have been rebuffed by Ukrainian assaults, the U.S. estimates that Russia suffered one lakh casualties. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why are Blinkit workers protesting?

How did the strikes start? What is 'platform work'? Do the new Labour Codes protect the rights of gig workers? Does the Code on Social Security, 2020 differentiate between employee and gig worker? Have there been petitions in courts to legally recognise gig work and workers?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The recent strike by Zomato-owned Blinkit delivery agents has once again brought to the forefront issues plaguing the gig economy in the country. The strikes began when Blinkit rolled out its new payout structure for delivery executives, under which the minimum payout per delivery was slashed to ₹15 from ₹25. As a result, Blinkit delivery executives are now set to earn ₹600-700 a day as opposed to ₹1,200 before.

Who is a 'gig worker'?

Gig workers refer to workers outside of the traditional employer-employee relationship. There are two groups of gig workers – platform workers, and non-platform workers. When gig workers use online algorithmic matching platforms or apps to connect with customers, they are called platform workers. Those who work outside of these platforms are non-platform workers, including construction workers and non-technology-based temporary workers.

Whether gig workers should be categorised as 'employees' or as 'independent contractors' has been a heated debate. In India, employees are entitled to a host of benefits under statutes such as the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (EPFA), and the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. Similarly, contract labourers are governed under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and are also entitled to benefits such as provident funds. However, given the unique nature of gig work, gig workers display characteristics of both employees and independent contractors and thus do not squarely fit into any rigid categorisation. As a result, gig workers have limited recognition under current employment laws and thus fall outside the ambit of statutory benefits.

At risk: A Blinket delivery agent on his way to deliver groceries in New Delhi in 2022. FILE PHOTO

What is the proposed law?

The Ministry of Labour and Employment introduced the Code on Social Security, 2020 which brings gig workers within the ambit of labour laws for the first time.

Under section 2(35) of the Code, a 'gig worker' is defined as 'a person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship'. The Code defines platform work as 'a work arrangement outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship in which organisations or individuals use an online platform to access other organisations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services" in exchange for payment. Although the Code recognises 'gig workers', it distinguishes between such workers and employees. While employees have benefits such as gratuity, employee compensation, insurance, provident fund, and maternity benefits, the Code stipulates that Central and State governments must frame suitable social security schemes for gig workers on matters relating to health and maternity benefits, provident funds and accident benefits among others.

The Code also mandates the compulsory registration of all gig workers and platform workers to avail of the benefits under these schemes.

What are some of the concerns?

Out of the four new labour codes proposed, gig work finds reference only in the Code on Social Security. As a result, gig workers remain excluded from vital benefits and protections offered by other Codes such as minimum wage, occupational safety etc. They also cannot create legally recognised unions. Moreover, they remain excluded from accessing the specialised redressal mechanism under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, denying them an effective remedy for grievances against their employers. Considering the non-traditional nature of their work, gig workers also do not have the right to collective bargaining – a fundamental principle of modern labour law crucial to safeguard the rights of workers.

A 2022 report by Fairwork India, an international research project, highlighted the deplorable working conditions of the employees of digital labour platforms in India and the need for statutory affirmation of the rights of gig workers. Despite receiving the assent of the President, the Labour Codes are still awaiting implementation three years on. The Centre has said that this is due to the delay in framing of rules by the States.

Have the courts intervened?

On September 20, 2021, the Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers (IFAT) filed a public interest litigation on behalf of gig workers before the Supreme Court. The petition demanded that gig workers or platform workers be declared as 'unorganised workers' so that they can come under the purview of the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 (UWSS Act) and be provided with statutory protection in the form of social security benefits. It has been contended that the exclusion of gig workers from the category of 'unorganised workers' or 'wage workers' under Sections 2(m) and 2(n) of the UWSS Act is violating their fundamental rights under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution. Further, it has been argued that such denial of social benefits amounts to exploitation through forced labour, within the meaning of Article 23.

Although the Supreme Court sought the Centre's response to this petition back in December 2021, the Centre has not yet responded.

THE GIST

- The Blinkit strikes began when the company rolled out its new payout structure for delivery executives, under which the minimum payout per delivery was slashed to ₹15 from ₹25.
- Gig workers refer to workers outside of the traditional employer-employee relationship. Whether gig workers should be categorised as 'employees' or as 'independent contractors' has been a heated debate.
- A 2022 report by Fairwork India, an international research project, highlighted the deplorable working conditions of the employees of digital labour platforms in India and the need for statutory affirmation of the rights of gig workers.

The Golden Globe Race: the voyage of mad men

Why is Abhilash Tomy completing the race a stupendous feat? How is this race different from the others?

S. Anandan

The story so far:

Abhilash Tomy, former Commander in the Indian Navy who became the first Indian to go around the world on a sailboat solo and unassisted back in 2013, has now attained another record of completing a solo circumnavigation under even more gruelling circumstances when he made podium finish at the Golden Globe Race (GGR), 2022, on April 29. He finished second after South African Kirsten Neuschäfer.

What is GGR?

The Golden Globe Race is a non-stop, solo, unassisted yacht race around-the-world which was held for the first time in 1968-69. Just one of the nine participants – 30-year-old British sailor Robin Knox-Johnston – made it to the finishing point sailing a boat named Suhaili which was built in India. The second edition of the race was held 50 years later, in 2018, when Tomy threw his hat in the ring. One of the conditions was that the contestants would use boats designed to prescribed premodern specifications and would not be allowed to use any modern navigational gear. They would have to rely entirely on sextants and paper charts. To be more specific, anything that wasn't available in 1968 would not be allowed. Satellite phones would be available for extremely restricted use, up to four short messages a day, and use of the GPS chart plotter carried in a sealed box (for emergency) would lead to disqualification from the race. And the sailing would be along a stipulated route, rounding the three great capes, the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa, Cape Leeuwin in Australia and Cape Horn in Chile.

What happened at the race in 2018?

Tomy got a boat, Thuriya, built similar to Suhaili at the same yard that had built INSV Mhadei used by Cdr (retd) Dilip Donde and Tomy for circumnavigating the globe and made a tremendous start in 2018. He was racing in the third position when Thuriya got dismasted in a storm in the Southern Indian Ocean. Down with a spinal injury, he was subsequently evacuated in a multi-nation effort and was operated upon, with titanium rods inserted into his spine and five vertebrae fused into one. He had great difficulty in walking, and it was thought he would hardly sail again. But before hanging up his naval uniform in early 2021, Tomy, a naval pilot, flew his last Dornier sortie and did a fairly good amount of ocean sailing and kayaking.

How did he return to GGR?

In 2021, Tomy began to look for sponsors, and boats, in order to take part in GGR-2022. He also tried to get crowdfunding. Eventually, in March, 2022, he announced his participation in the race on the Bayanat, named after a UAE-based company in the field of geospatial artificial intelligence that would sponsor his race. However, just three weeks before the race was to start, the boat collided with a ship and required massive repairs. At the end of it all, he was there at the starting line at Les Sables d'Olone on the western coast of France on September 4, 2022, to finish the job he was forced to quit abruptly four years back.

Why is his feat stupendous?

Only three of the 11 contestants of GGR-2022 lasted the course of the race, with Kirsten Neuschäfer becoming the first woman to win a solo around-the-world yacht race. It was almost a neck-and-neck finish for Tomy and Neuschäfer after both had faced testing times in the Southern Ocean. Officially, Tomy's was the most 'repaired' boat in the race and it was all carried out by the sailor fighting unimaginable sea conditions and lack of sleep. The main sail of Tomy's boat was torn and his wind wane was damaged. Similar loss forced many contestants to quit, but Tomy put his skills to good use to do the repairs, including fixing a wind wane from his toilet door. His messages relayed by the GGR organiser on social media were testimony to the sailor's wry wit even in the face of odds. In the end, Tomy, who had received ocean sailing tips from Knox-Johnston himself, became the first Asian to complete the 30,000-mile GGR.

THE GIST

- Abhilash Tomy, former Commander in the Indian Navy, has now completed another solo circumnavigation when he made podium finish at the Golden Globe Race (GGR), 2022, on April 29.
- The Golden Globe Race is a non-stop, solo, unassisted yacht race around-the-world which was held for the first time in 1968-69. One of the conditions of the race is that the contestants would use boats designed to prescribed premodern specifications and would not be allowed to use any modern navigational gear.
- Only three of the 11 contestants of GGR-2022 lasted the course of the race.

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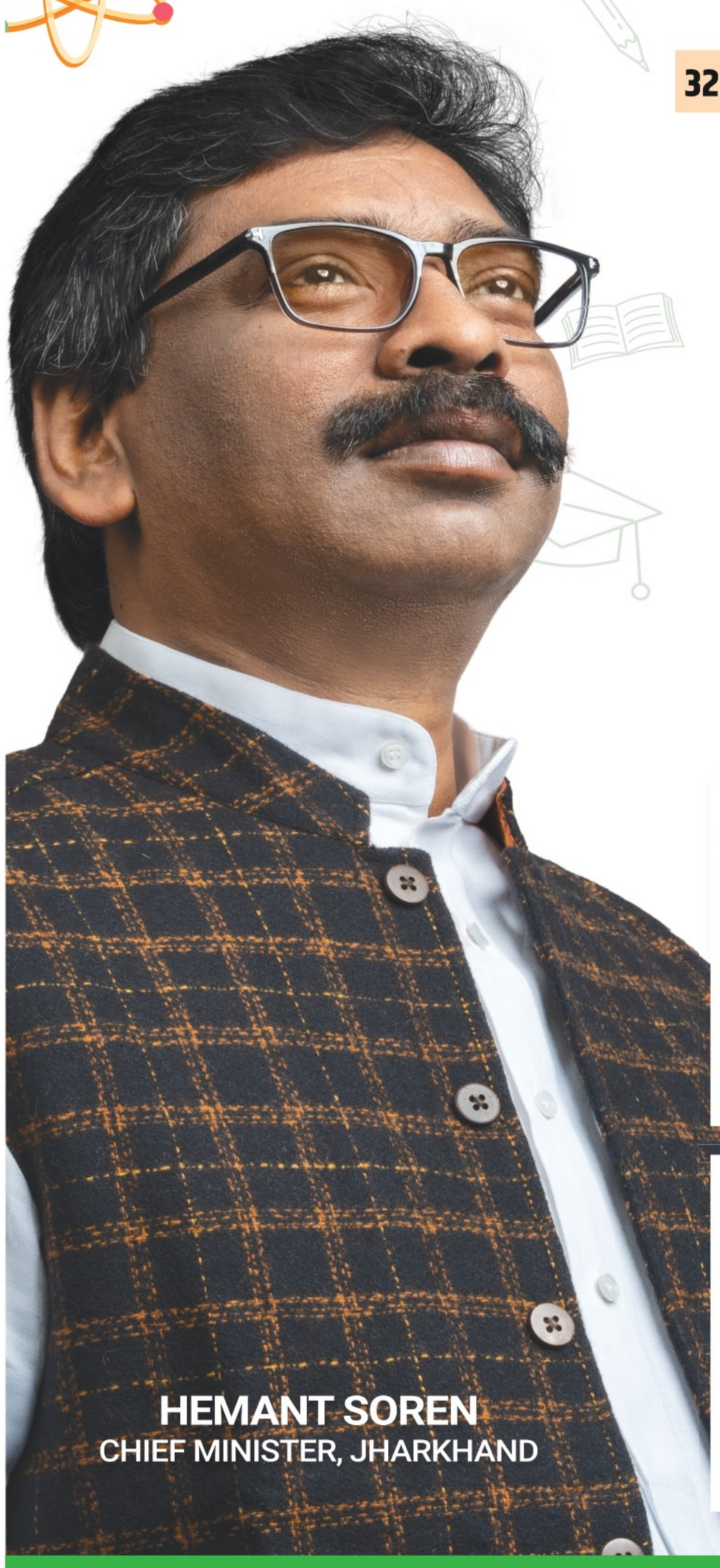

HEMANT SOREN
CHIEF MINISTER, JHARKHAND

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND

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KEYWORD

GETTY IMAGES

De-dollarisation: the race to attain the status of global reserve currency

While countries have tried to dethrone the dollar as the global reserve currency for many decades now for various reasons, of late such attempts have picked up pace in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year

Prashanth Perumal

De-dollarisation refers to the replacement of the U.S. dollar by other currencies as the global reserve currency.

A reserve currency refers to any currency that is widely used in cross-border transactions and is commonly held as reserves by central banks. Countries have tried to dethrone the dollar as the global reserve currency for many decades now for various reasons. But of late, attempts to de-dollarise have picked up pace in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year. The U.S. imposed several sanctions that restricted the use of the U.S. dollar to purchase oil and other goods from Russia, and this has been seen by many countries as an attempt to weaponise the dollar. Since international transactions carried out in the U.S. dollar are cleared by American banks, this gives the U.S. government significant power to oversee and control these transactions. Currently, the Chinese yuan is seen as the primary alternative to the U.S. dollar owing to China's rising economic power.

The reserve currency advantage

Other currencies such as the British pound and the French franc have served as international reserve currencies in the past. It should be noted that it is the currencies of economic superpowers that have usually ended up being used as the global reserve currency. As the economic clout of these countries waned, their currencies faced a similar downfall. This was the case, for example, with the British pound which was gradually replaced by the U.S. dollar as Britain lost its status as a global economic superpower in the first half of the 20th century.

Critics of the U.S. dollar believe that the global reserve currency status gives it unfair privileges over other countries, thus justifying de-dollarisation attempts by many countries. It should be noted that when a country's fiat currency enjoys reserve currency status, it gives the country the power to purchase goods and other assets from the rest of the world by simply creating fresh currency out of thin air. However, such irresponsible expansion of the money supply can cause the debasement of the currency and eventually threaten its status as a reserve currency.

Others point to the expansionary monetary policy adopted by the U.S. Federal Reserve over the decades to argue that this could threaten the U.S. dollar's status as a global reserve currency. The U.S. central bank usually increases the supply of dollars through various means to tackle economic downturns and also to fund the U.S. government's expenditures. But it should be noted that the U.S. Federal Reserve is not the only central bank in the world that has been debasing its currency by engaging in expansionary monetary policy over several decades. Other countries have also been expanding their respective money supplies to address their domestic economic problems. As long as the U.S. does not debase its currency at a faster pace than other countries, the dollar may manage to hold its value against other currencies and hence its reserve currency status may not come under serious threat.

The popularity of the U.S. dollar

Many economists argue that the U.S. dollar is not forced on anyone to be accepted as a medium of exchange for cross-border transactions. They note that the U.S. dollar is widely used in international transactions because people actually prefer to use the American currency over others for various economic reasons. Other currencies that have tried to compete against the U.S. dollar are not as popular as the greenback for carrying out international transactions. For example, a recent attempt by India and Russia to carry out trade between the two countries in Indian rupees rather than in U.S. dollars has hit a roadblock because the value of India's imports from Russia far outweighs its exports to the country. This left Russia with excess rupees in hand which it was unwilling to spend on Indian goods or assets, and led to Russian demands for the settlement of bilateral trade in U.S. dollars. So, even Russia, a long-time friend of India and a long-time foe of the United States, preferred to carry out its trade with India using U.S. dollars since the dollar is far more widely acceptable than the Indian rupee.

The global acceptability of the U.S. dollar has primarily been attributed to the popularity of U.S. assets among investors. It should be noted that the U.S. has been running a persistent trade deficit for decades now (in fact the last time the U.S. ran a trade surplus was way back in 1975). That is, the value of its imports has for a long time exceeded the value of its exports to the rest of the world. The excess dollars that the rest of the world accumulates due to the U.S.'s trade deficit has been invested in U.S. assets such as in debt securities issued by the US government. The high level of trust that global investors have in the U.S. financial markets, perhaps owing to the 'rule of law' in the U.S., is considered to be a major reason why investors prefer to invest in U.S. assets. It should, however, be noted that it is not necessary that a country must run a trade deficit for its currency to be accepted as a reserve currency.

China, for instance, which supplies the world with huge volumes of goods and runs a trade surplus, has been trying to make the yuan a reserve currency. However, restrictions placed by the Chinese government on foreign access to China's financial markets and doubts over 'rule of law' in China have adversely affected global demand for the yuan.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On May 3 in 1979, Margaret Thatcher was elected the Prime Minister of Britain. Here is a quiz on the event and other notable factors about this day in history

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

Margaret Thatcher was known by a nickname, that became associated with her politics and leadership style. What is it? A 2011 biographical drama film based on her life got the actor who essayed the role of Thatcher an Oscar. Who is the actor who portrayed her role in the film?

QUESTION 2

On May 3, 1952, the first national television coverage of the Kentucky Derby took place. Which horse breed is used mainly for the race? When is it usually held?

QUESTION 3

This book by Margaret Mitchell won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction on May 3, 1937. What is the name of the book?

QUESTION 4

Both these singers were born on May 3. One won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance in *Going My Way* in 1944 and the other one sung the popular song "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?", from 1955. Name both singers.

QUESTION 5

This Indian film had its theatrical release on May 3, 2013. Identify this film that is often considered the first full-length Indian feature film. Who directed, and produced it?

Visual question:

Identify this actor (being interviewed) who starred in an American prime-time television soap opera from 1978 to 1991, as J.R. Ewing. This show remains one of the longest-lasting full-hour prime-time dramas in American TV history. Identify the actor, and name the show. REUTERS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Satyajiy Ray utilised the work of this accomplished sitarist for *Jalsaghar*. **Ans: Vilayat Khan**

2. The cinematographer who collaborated with Satyajit Ray for all of his earlier films. **Ans: Subrata Mitra**

3. This filmmaker said the following about Ray — 'not to have seen the cinema of Ray means existing in the world without seeing the sun or the moon'. **Ans: Akira Kurosawa**

4. In *Jai Baba Felunath*, one of the inimitable quotes includes the answer, "33 crores" by Feluda to this question by Jatayu about Banaras. **Ans: Temples in Varanasi**

5. The other film apart from *Shatranj ke Khilari* made by Satyajit Ray that was based on the works of Munshi Premchand. **Ans: *Satgati***

Visual: This short film by Ray was an allegory on the Vietnam War. **Ans: *Two***

Early Birds: V. Siddhartha| M. Suresh Kumar| Mamta Garg| Nandini Sharma

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. R. Vijaya Kumar, 18-4-3, Panneru Street, Vizianagaram, wants to know the origin of 'leftist' and 'rightist'."

"In politics, the radicals in a political group are referred to as leftists. Socialists and communists are considered leftists. In the French National Assembly of 1789, the reactionaries sat on the right, the moderates in the middle and extremists on the left and this seems to be the origin of the terms."

"Ms. G. Uma Devi, S. K. P. Government College, Guntakal wants to know the meaning of 'window dressing'."

" 'Window dressing' literally means 'the art of arranging goods attractively in shop-windows'. It is a technique of displaying goods in an attractive way. When used figuratively, it means 'the act of making something more attractive or favourable by distortion or clever presentation. Companies are said to do window dressing when 'the balance sheet is so prepared as to suggest that their business is more prosperous than it is'. The term doesn't have a good connotation.

No amount of window dressing by the government can hide the fact that the economy is in a bad shape."

"Mr. P. Vasudevan, B-31, Vrindavan Housing Colony, Chevayoor, Calicut, wants to know the meaning of 'as likely as not'."

"It means 'with equal chances of happening or not happening'.

He will come as likely as not."

"Several readers want to know the meaning of 'maiden' in 'maiden over'."

" 'Maiden' means 'a young unmarried woman, girl'. When it is used as an adjective, it means one of the following depending on the context: 'of a girl or woman', 'fresh', 'untaken', 'first', 'untried', 'unused'. A maiden castle is a castle that hasn't been taken. A maiden over is an over in which no runs have been taken. It is an 'unused' over, an over where no runs have been scored. A maiden horse is a horse that has never won a race.

"Several readers have written to say that in some dictionaries the pronunciation of 'penchant' is given as 'paanshaan'."

"This pronunciation is closer to the French pronunciation of the word. The word 'penchant' is of French origin. But the tendency these days is to pronounce the word the way I have indicated. The anglicised pronunciation is easier and closer to the spelling. Both the pronunciations are acceptable. When a word is borrowed from a foreign language into English, at the beginning it is pronounced in more or less the way it is pronounced in the foreign language. After a period of time, it tends to be pronounced in the way words with a similar spelling are pronounced in English. For example, 'garage' used to be pronounced the French way with the accent on the second syllable. Now it is pronounced by some differently; it rhymes with 'carriage'. This is also acceptable. With passage of time, only the anglicised pronunciation will survive."

Published in The Hindu on November 17, 1987.

Word of the day

Miffed:
aroused to impatience or anger

Synonyms:
irritated, steamed, stung, riled, peeved, pissed, annoyed, nettled

Usage:
He is miffed because the boss chose another person over him.

Pronunciation: https://bit.ly/miffedpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /mɪft/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Gandhi Bazaar remains shut for a day in protest against 'unscientific' projects

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ongoing Smart City and white-topping work taken up by the BBMP has affected traders on Gandhi Bazaar main road for almost a year now.

The tussle between traders and businesses and civic authorities in the city continues as all the shops and establishments in Gandhi Bazaar area pulled their shutters down on Tuesday as a sign of protest against the alleged unscientific and unplanned development projects in the locality. Some street vendors also joined the protest, while others conducted their business as usual.

The ongoing Smart City and white-topping work taken up by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has affected the traders on Gandhi Bazaar main road for almost a year now. The Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT)'s proposal to make Gandhi Bazaar a vehicle-free, pedestrian zone has also drawn flak from traders and residents alike.

Concerns expressed

In a press conference on Tuesday, members of Heritage Basavanagudi Resident Welfare Forum and Basavanagudi Traders' Association suggested that quality asphalting of the main road will be more beneficial than white-topping as it would prevent water-logging. They also expressed concern about the destruction of around 84 trees to aid white-topping and demanded immediate action against BBMP and DULT officials, contractors and architects.

They also said that repeated conversations with the MLAs of Chickpet and Basavanagudi, the MP of Bengaluru South, other officials as well as their request letter sent to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai were not taken into consideration.

"Pipe laying and other civic work has been taken up on Gandhi Bazaar main road and many centuries-old trees have been unscientifically destroyed in the process as the roots were affected due to the chemicals used while digging up the road. We suspect that over 84 trees will be destroyed in the process and hence we have lodged a complaint with the Additional Chief Secretary of the Forest, Ecology and Environment department, Chief Commissioner of BBMP and Chief Conservator of Forests," the members said. The members also expressed their dissent towards the proposed traffic restrictions, relocation of bus stand, construction of permanent vending structures and boom barriers in Gandhi Bazaar which would cause severe inconvenience to the public, residents and generational traders on the road.

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BA (Music-Western Classical, Creative Media)*
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BA (Performing Arts, Creative Media)*
BA (Psychology, Economics)*
BA (Psychology, English)*
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MSW (Human Resources Development and Management)
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BSc (Computer Science, Mathematics)*
BSc (Computer Science, Statistics)*
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BSc (Physics, Mathematics)*

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POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES
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BTech (Computer Science and Engineering - Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning) ❖
BTech (Computer Science and Engineering - Data Science) ❖
BTech (Computer Science and Engineering) ❖
BTech (Electronics and Communication Engineering) ❖
BTech (Electronics and Computer Engineering) ❖
BTech (Electrical and Electronics Engineering) ❖
BTech (Information Technology) ❖
BTech (Mechanical Engineering) ❖
BTech (Robotics and Mechatronics) ❖
BTech (Computer Science and Engineering-IoT) ❖

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Once a saviour of the poor, Indira Canteens are now a picture of neglect

Incidentally, BJP has made a poll promise to set up Atal Aahara Kendra in every ward of municipal corporations to provide affordable food

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

FOCUS BENGALURU

From poor patronage to unavailability of electricity and water as a result of pending dues, the sorry state of affairs continues at Indira Canteens in the city ahead of elections in Karnataka.

With the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) shutting down all mobile Indira canteens in the city citing lack of patronage and lack of budgetary allocation, the canteens, meant to feed the poor, have been suffering.

The Opposition has alleged that the lack of interest by the BJP government to fund operations of the canteens, which were launched by the Congress government, is what has led to this present state. Incidentally, the BJP on Monday made a poll promise to set up Atal Aahara Kendra in every ward of municipal corporations to provide affordable and quality food.

The Opposition has alleged that the lack of interest by the BJP government to fund operations of the Indira Canteens is what has led to this present state. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Indira Canteens were set up in Karnataka in March 2017 with the aim of serving the urban poor on the lines of the Amma Canteens in Tamil Nadu. While breakfast is available at a subsidised rate of ₹5 per plate, lunch and dinner are offered at ₹10 per plate.

On August 16, 2017, 101 Indira Canteens were inaugurated by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Later, the initiative was expanded to various parts of Karnataka. The Congress alleges that things started to change when the BJP came to power. The canteens in Bengaluru, though operational, have become a pale shadow of their former selves.

The Karnataka government had been providing 30% subsidy to the BBMP for operating Indira Canteens in Bengaluru. In 2017-18 and 2018-2019, the then government allocated ₹100 crore and ₹145 crore, respectively. After the BJP government took over, in the past two years, no funds were allocated for the scheme. Hence, the civic body had to allocate funds to the canteens from its already stretched Budget. The BBMP had earmarked ₹60 crore in the 2022-23 Budget for running the Indira Canteens, which was less than half of what was allocated in 2018-19.

The government has not started any new canteens in the last one year and what was sanctioned have not commenced operations.

Further, while 15 mobile Indira Canteens were operational in Bengaluru in December 2022, the BBMP shut down all of them in Bengaluru.

Popularity is down

Claiming that the popularity of the canteen has come down, the BBMP is looking to shift them from less populated areas to densely populated areas. A BBMP official involved in the project said, "It is true that the canteens are not as popular as earlier, specially after the COVID-19 pandemic. We are looking at various ways to popularise the canteen and target more people in the coming days. One measure is to relocate canteens in lesser populated areas to densely populated areas, such as bus stands, railway stations, and market areas. The State Cabinet has given a nod for the move. The Urban Development Department (UDD) is conducting a survey."

At present, Indira Canteens provide meals to around 70,000 people every day, according to the civic body. However, many people in the city have been depending on the canteens for their meals, but patrons say quality has suffered.

Kiran Kumar, a food delivery executive who has his afternoon meals at the canteen, said, "The food was good earlier, but now the quality is not great. But I have to depend on the canteen. We earn little and can't afford to eat in normal hotels as it costs ₹55 for just rice and sambar. In Indira canteen, it is just ₹10 a plate. The government has to give more importance to the food quality and hygiene to get more customers to the canteen."

"Food quality is good, but there is an issue of drinking water facility and hygiene. Sometimes, there are insects moving around the canteen," said Prakash, a cab driver, who has his lunch at the Arekere canteen in South Bengaluru.

INBRIEF

II PU supplementary exams from May 22 to June 2

The supplementary examination for II PU students will be held from May 22 to June 2.

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) announced the schedule of the examination on Tuesday. On May 22, Kannada and Arabic exams will be held. On May 23, Chemistry and Basic Maths, on May 24 English, on May 25 Sociology, Electronics, Computer Science, on May 26 History, Statistics, on May 27 Hindi, on May 29 Geography, Psychology, Physics, and on May 30 Geology, Education and Home Science exams will be held. On May 31 Political Science and Mathematics, on June 1 Logic, Business Studies, and on June 2 Economics and Biology exams will be conducted.

Bengaluru doctor to attend King Charles III's coronation

Issac Mathai, a city doctor and Chairman of SOUKYA, International Holistic Centre, has been invited by Buckingham Palace, London, to the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Consort Camilla on May 6. Dr. Mathai, already in London, said he would attend the pre-coronation party at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday. Dr. Mathai's association with the British royal family goes back many years. While Camilla had visited SOUKYA eight times for holistic treatment, Charles visited once in 2019. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Dr. Mathai said, "For 18 years, the King and Queen Consort have been consulting me as a holistic consultant. The Queen Consort has visited SOUKYA eight times, and the King came once. They really enjoyed being in India at our centre for treatment. Being a part of the coronation is the proudest moment of my life. I regularly meet the King and the Queen Consort in London. Other than medical consultation, the King has some interest in holistic medicine. The King and I also have a common interest in organic farming and climate change."

FIR against Somashekar for putting up PM's posters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kengeri police have registered an FIR against Yeshwantpur MLA S.T. Somashekar for putting up banners and flexes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah without permission.

Based on a complaint filed Ashok Biradar, team leader of the flying squad, the police booked Mr. Somashekhar, charging him under section 3 of the Karnataka Open Place Disfigurement Act on Monday.

In his complaint, Mr. Biradar said that he was on patrolling with his team on 7th Main, Velagerahalli, in Kengeri when he noticed flexes.

The police have now sought the details of the incident.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, MAY. 03			
RISE	05:58	SET	18:35
RISE	16:38	SET	04:11
THURSDAY, MAY. 04			
RISE	05:58	SET	18:35
RISE	17:29	SET	04:48
FRIDAY, MAY. 05			
RISE	05:58	SET	18:35
RISE	18:21	SET	05:28

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	25
Mysuru	33	23
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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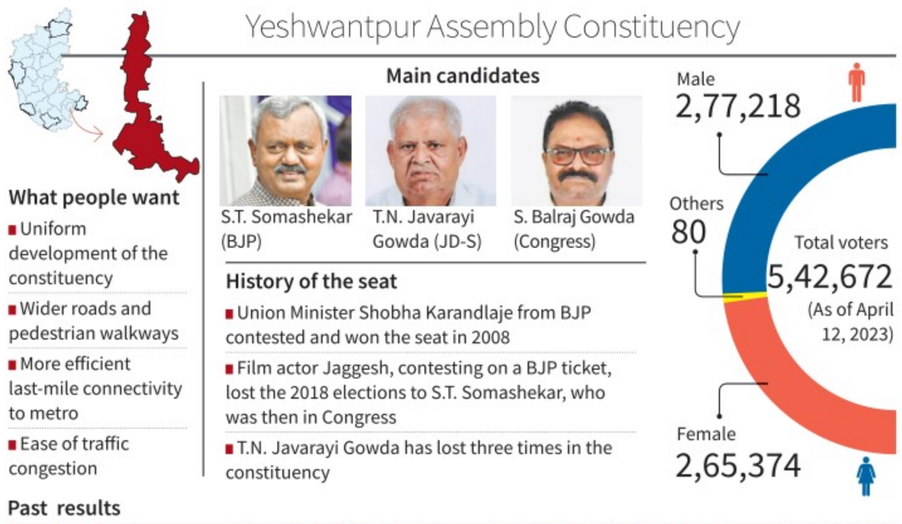
Uneven development bane of Yeshwantpur, say residents



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	S.T. Somashekar (Congress)	1,15,273 40.13%	T.N. Javarayi Gowda (JD-S)	1,04,562 36.4%	Jaggesh (BJP)	59,308 20.65%
2013	S.T. Somashekar (Congress)	1,20,380 51.99%	T.N. Javarayi Gowda (JD-S)	91,280 39.42%	H.L. Krishnappa (BJP)	12,747 5.5%

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

KEY CONSTITUENCY

Yeshwantpur is a huge constituency stretching from the northern part of the city to beyond Mysuru Road and Kanakapura Road, including some key localities like Ullal and Kengeri, but curiously does not include most parts of the locality which is known as Yeshwantpur.

One of the main concerns of people in this constituency is that the development here has not been uniform; there are old BBMP areas, those which were municipalities and now BBMP wards and villages which came under BBMP jurisdiction recently. "The development in the newly added areas is not on a par with the old Bengaluru standards. It is very slow-paced," said Chandrashekhar S., a resident of Kengeri.

Traffic issues

Although metro services have reached many parts of the constituency, residents struggle with last-mile connectivity and pedestrian walkways. "They are not working on making connectivity more efficient. While accessing metro stations by vehicle is easy, there are no specified walkways for pedestrians to reach there by walking. These things need improvement," another resident said.

With the new Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway and the old Mysuru Road, the residents of the constituency have always had to bear with the highway traffic. They said that immediate steps needed to be taken to ease the traffic congestion in many parts of the constituency.

During the last Assembly elections, S.T. Somashekar won the seat from the Congress party before switching to the BJP. In 2019, he contested and won the by-poll here from the BJP. He is also the Cooperation Minister in the present Cabinet.

Work during pandemic

This time around, he is looking to win the elections based on the work he did during the pandemic and the drinking water facilities he has created, whereas T.N. Javarayi Gowda, the JD(S) candidate, is asking for a chance after losing thrice in the constituency. With Somashekar switching to BJP, the competition from Congress is not what it used to be anymore, according to residents.

"I brought anti-COVID vaccinations in a lump sum of five to ten thousand per ward. I distributed food kits to every house and even provided compensation for those who died from COVID in the constituency. I have also got clearance for the Cauvery water supply and the sanction of plans for 17 panchayats to get tap water. JD(S) did no work here and helped no one during COVID. They come here only during elections, but I am here every day in the constituency and working on development," S.T. Somashekar said.

Countering those statements, Mr. Gowda said, "It is his duty as an MLA to work in the constituency. When I have no power, what work can I do? I never objected to or protested his programmes as I did not want to go against people's mandate, and maybe that is what my weakness is. I have lost three times here, and I believe voters will give me a chance this time. We are getting full support while campaigning."

Gandhinagar battles civic issues even as MLA is confident of winning again

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The Gandhinagar Assembly constituency, which is in the heart of the city, is known for being the nerve centre of the Kannada film industry, a transport hub, and housing key commercial areas such as Cottonpet, Chickpet, and Balepet.

However, it also known for poor infrastructure, lack of development in slums, narrow roads, garbage clearance issues, water scarcity and traffic issues. The constituency remains the bastion of Congress since 1999 where MLA Dinesh Gundu Rao has won five terms in a row. The bustling constituency is dominated by slums in Okalipuram and Subhashnagar, which cry for attention to various infrastructure issues.

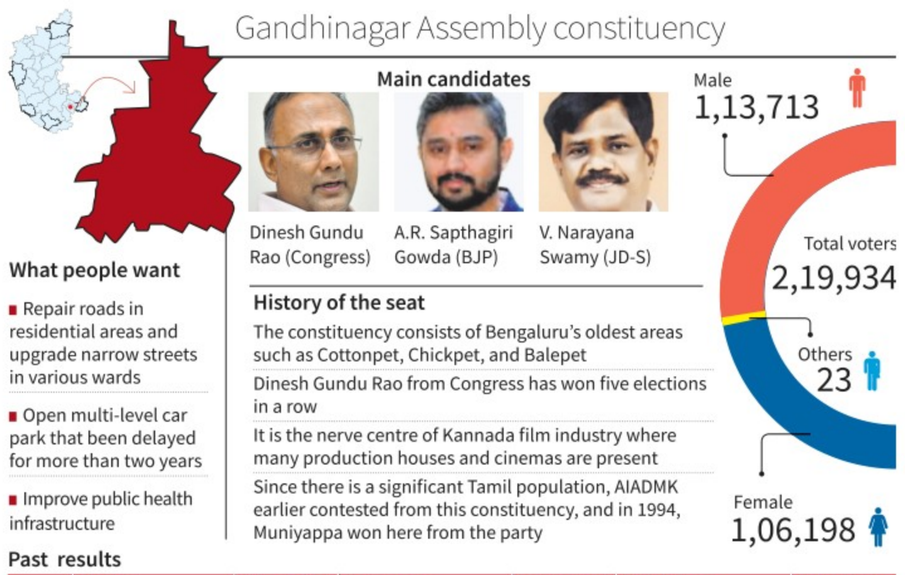
"We are just a vote bank for politicians," said Nanjavva, a resident of Okalipuram. "There are many issues that the area is facing, a major one is of water logging during rains where rainwater enters our houses. The garbage piles up on the road and no one cleans it up. The slums have not been developed," she added.

While more than a lakh people use Majestic bus station and railway station everyday, the area sees traffic bottlenecks and the cleanliness in the underpasses, skywalks and roads have been questioned by commuters. "If you see the underpass in Majestic area, there is only waste. How can we walk in such underpasses and roads? Apart from this, there are a lot of traffic snarls all around Majestic area," Laxminarayan, a commuter, said.

Roads in Okalipuram, Majestic, Seshadripuram, Central near Mantri Mall, and Chickpet are known for traffic snarls. The constituency has a huge Tamil population and the AIADMK had earlier contested from here. In 1994, Muniyappa won here from AIADMK. The incumbent MLA Mr. Rao, however, is confident that he will win here for the sixth time.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, he said, "Most of the unsolved issues which were in the constituency have been solved. All the people in the constituency have good opinion of me. In crisis such as the pandemic, I have worked closely with the people and helped them." "We have identified areas to shift the slum inhabitants to pucca houses," he added.

The BJP has fielded A.R. Sapthagiri Gowda from the constituency, who is the son of former Minister Ramachandra Gowda. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Gowda alleged that there is no development under the present MLA who has won for five terms. "I am confident that I will win this time with a good margin since people here want change," he added.



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	Dinesh Gundu Rao (Congress)	47,354 37.34%	A.R. Sapthagiri Gowda (BJP)	37,284 29.40%	V. Narayanaswamy (JD-S)	36,635 28.89%
2013	Dinesh Gundu Rao (Congress)	54,968 49.6%	P.C. Mohan (BJP)	32,361 29.2%	Subhash Bharani (JD-S)	7,418 6.69%

KEY CONSTITUENCY

'BBMP monitoring UPI digital bribes to voters'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, who is also the Bengaluru City District Election Officer, said there have been no cases of alleged digital bribes found in the city so far.

Mr. Giri Nath on Tuesday participated in the 'Meet the Press' event organised by the Press Club of Bangalore and answered several questions posed by journalists on the Karnataka Assembly elections and preparations by the BBMP.

Answering a question by reporters on UPI payments of bribes to voters by candidates, he said, "We have been continuously monitoring such digital bribes through UPI payments during the elections. We have been in touch with UPI payment companies and have told them to bring it to the notice of the BBMP if such suspicious transactions occur through UPI. These companies have also done dump analysis. However, so far in the city, we have not got any such cases."

The Election Commission is monitoring the distribution of money through wallets and online payment platforms. Earlier, the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Meena had said that the Commission is collecting data on bulk transfer of small amounts from bank accounts and analysing it.

Meanwhile, Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust, which was involved in an alleged voter data theft case, has not qualified in any BBMP tender, clarified Mr. Giri Nath.

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BJP, Congress propose special administrative region for city

AAP moots new Bangalore Infrastructure Development Agency to oversee all infrastructure work

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The big idea that emerges from both Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party manifestos for Bengaluru is for the city to be developed and administered at a regional level, an idea that seems to have found resonance with urban governance experts in the city.

While Congress elaborates on Mega Bengaluru Region as creating "infrastructure and administrative connections with cities like Kolar Chickballapur, Doddaballapur, Tumakuru, Ramanagara and Kanakapura", the BJP manifesto doesn't elucidate in solid terms what a State Capital Region would mean.

Aam Aadmi Party also commits to a Metropolitan Planning Committee in the entire metropolitan region encompassing both the Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts. "The big takeaway from the Congress manifesto is the proposed law which will bring all parastatals in the city, which presently cannot be held accountable easily, under one agency. However, there is ambiguity as to whether this will be the civic body or it will be another parastatal manned by officials. If it is the civic body, this will be the best thing for the city, but if it is another parastatal, it won't solve anything," said V. Ravichandar, a former member of the BBMP Restructuring Committee.

However, the Congress manifesto has received flak for taking the flyover route again. The manifesto proposes a network of flyovers crisscrossing the city and a network of tunnel roads in the Central Business District, both projects mooted and severely opposed during Siddaramaiah's tenure.

"Any move to build these flyovers will again be met with stiff resistance. While the manifesto has some great ideas for an equitable city, including augmenting the bus fleet and providing free travel for women, we don't understand why it also pushes for these outdated solutions," said civic activist Srinivas Alavilli from World Resources Institute.

The BJP manifesto envisages a digital future for the city and lists several digital ventures like an AI-powered traffic solutions app for commuters, a dashboard for the city's governance, an integrated travel card and a ticket booking app, a smart water supply project among several other digital initiatives. The manifesto for the city has drawn flak for focusing too much on technology. "The BJP manifesto seems to think technology is the solution for the city, but it evidently is not. We need to plan the city for the vulnerable," said Mr. Ravichandar.

Meanwhile, the AAP manifesto has some new ideas, including a Bangalore Infrastructure Development Agency to oversee all infrastructure works in the city.

What parties promise for Bengaluru

	Congress	BJP	AAP
Governance	■ Create Mega Bengaluru Region ■ Establish Mega Bengaluru Planning Committee ■ Enact a new BBMP law, bringing all service providers such as water supply and sewage, transport, housing, power and development authorities under a single agency	■ Establish 'State Capital Region' of Bengaluru ■ A dashboard to help citizens and officials access local information related to governance	■ Immediate elections to BBMP, formation of BMPC ■ Recommendations of the Bengaluru Restructuring Committee shall be taken up for implementation ■ Property tax to be abolished ■ 20% ward budget to ward committees
Infrastructure	■ Construct North - South and South - East elevated corridors ■ Construct tunnel roads in CBD areas under PPP model	■ Establish a gigabit optical fibre network along the lines of the network laid in Germany and Japan, for high internet speeds	■ The new Bangalore Infrastructure Development Agency will be in charge of all infrastructure work in the city ■ Peripheral Ring Road will be developed immediately
Mobility	■ To complete all ongoing metro work in one year. Strive to get approval and complete Phase 3 and 4 in next 5 years ■ Create seamless integration of Namma Metro, suburban rail and all public transport ■ Increase BMTC fleet strength to 10,000 ■ Free travel for women on buses ■ Within 2 years 50% of all buses in State to be electric buses	■ Establish a world-class multi-modal transport hub "Concorde Bangalore", similar to WTC transportation hub, New York ■ Create a unified transit network, inspired by the system in London. It will include integrated travel card and a ticket-booking app	■ Bus fleet of BMTC will be increased to 12,000 ■ Bus lanes on all BIG10 routes and ORR ■ Free bus travel for women

Non-aero revenue at KIA returns to pre-pandemic levels

To accelerate non-aero revenue growth, BIAL has undertaken many innovative projects that engage passengers. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), which recorded a 96% growth during 2022-23 compared to the previous financial year, has also seen an impressive growth in non-aero revenue.

The non-aero revenue, which comprises revenue from food and beverage sales and duty-free shops, returned to pre-pandemic levels as per Fairfax India Holdings Corporation 2022 Annual Report.

"Non-aero revenue grew at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 17% from 2009 to 2020 (thereby excluding the impact of pandemic years): it has currently returned to pre-pandemic levels and is expected to resume its growth trajectory from 2023 due to the return to normal passenger growth rates, the availability of additional space and the increasing propensity of passengers at the airport to make purchases," states Fairfax India Holdings Corporation 2022 Annual Report.

Fairfax India Holdings Corporation owns 54% stake in Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates KIA. The annual report added that to accelerate non-aero revenue growth, BIAL has undertaken many innovative projects that engage passengers and enhance their experience at the airport.

"During the pandemic, BIAL was a leader among airports in being flexible and working collaboratively with concessionaires (who also were extremely stressed from the shutdown of their businesses), helping them to survive and resume business as passenger traffic came back," the report said.

Also, the per passenger non-aero sales levels are higher than pre-pandemic levels.

BIAL is also improving lounge experience and increasing the lounge capacity in the two terminals.

Text & Context
A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (May 3, Wednesday), the following explainer is available:

- Blinkit protests and the legal remedies available to gig workers **bit.ly/blinkitprotests**

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Cong. promises 'firm action' against those spreading hate

In its manifesto, the party has also said it will scrap the National Education Policy and accept the caste census report, besides reiterating the five guarantees announced earlier

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Congress leaders Siddaramaiah, M. Mallikarjun Kharge, and D.K. Shivakumar at the release of the party manifesto in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Promising to repeal all the "anti-people and unjust laws" enacted by the BJP government within one year of forming the government, the Congress on Tuesday announced that it would take "firm and decisive action as per law to impose a ban on such organisations spreading hatred among communities on the grounds of caste or religion."

It also said that it would scrap the National Education Policy (NEP) and accept the caste census report, besides reiterating its five guarantees announced earlier.

"The party is committed to take firm and decisive action against individuals and organisations spreading hatred among communities on grounds of caste and religion. We believe that law and constitution is sacrosanct and cannot be violated by individuals/organisations like Bajrang Dal, PFI, or other promoting enmity or hatred whether among majority or minority communities," according to the manifesto titled "Sarva Janangada Shanthiya Thota" that was released here by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge.

In a series of promises to undo several BJP programmes, the manifesto that was released in the presence of Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar, among others, stated that the NEP would be rejected and a State Education Policy will be formed. "The Congress will restore the true values of Bharath and Karnataka, and the scientific temper in textbooks. The BJP government has distorted textbooks by insulting Basavanna and Kuvempu," it said.

While stating that the reservation quota matrix would be increased to 75% to accommodate hopes of SC/ST/OBC/ Vokkaligas/ Lingayats/minorities, the manifesto promised to restore the reservation quota of 4% to Muslims that has been scrapped by the BJP government. In response to the internal reservation matrix announced by the BJP government, the Congress said: "The Justice A.J. Sadashiva Commission report on internal reservation would be tabled in the first session of the legislature session. The caste census report will be implemented."

Repealing 'anti-labour' policies

The Congress also announced that it would repeal all unjust and anti-people laws passed by the BJP government within one year besides repealing the anti-farmers laws enacted by the BJP government. It also announced that all politically motivated cases against farmers would be withdrawn. Stating that the BJP government pursued an anti-labour policy, the Congress announced that it would repeal the amendment brought to Factories Act to increase working time from 8 hours to 12 hours daily.

It said that only to derive power, the BJP's main focus was to polarise people. However, the Congress believed in equal development and social justice for which ₹10,000 crore would be allocated for welfare of minorities, and preservation of places of worship, the manifesto said.

Congress is now trying to lock up Lord Hanuman, says Narendra Modi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/KALABURAGI

The Congress' poll manifesto, which mentions "firm action" including ban of organisations such as the Bajrang Dal, has ruffled the feathers of the ruling BJP, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself leading the attack.

Mr. Modi, who was in Hosapete to address poll conventions, on Tuesday remarked that the Congress had decided to "lock up Lord Hanuman, just as it had locked up Lord Sri Rama earlier."

'Unfortunate'

"I am here in this holy land of Hanuman. For me, it is the biggest fortune to pay my obeisance to the holy place of Hanuman. But it is unfortunate that when I came here to pay my obeisance to the land of Hanuman, the Congress has decided in its manifesto to lock up Bajarangbali. Earlier, they [Congress] had locked up Lord Sri Ram. Now, they have vowed to lock up those who chant Jai Bajarangbali," Mr. Modi said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an election rally on Tuesday. ANI

The Congress manifesto states: "The Congress party is committed to take firm and decisive action against individuals and organisations spreading hatred amongst communities on the grounds of caste or religion. We believe that law and constitution are sacrosanct and cannot be violated by individuals and organisations like Bajrang Dal, PFI or others promoting enmity or hatred, whether among majority or minority communities. We will take decisive action as per law including imposing a ban on any such organisations."

> PM must apologise for equating Lord Hanuman with the Bajrang Dal. Millions of Hanuman bhakts will fight this with full rigour.
>
> **RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA**
> Congress leader

The BJP leaders seemed particularly miffed over the Congress comparing Bajrang Dal with the PFI and has decided to make it an election issue.

'Devotees of Hanuman'

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said: "Bajrang Dal's activists are devotees of Hanuman. The Congress is saying that it will ban them. If all the devotees of Lord Hanuman revolt, then the Congress will be removed from the country itself."

He further said: "The Bajrang Dal is working towards strengthening our religion, history, and cultural heritage. The Congress has put such an organisation along with PFI which is indulging in anti-national activities and terrorism. The Prime Minister has already banned PFI."

Meanwhile, Union Minister and Party Election Management Committee convenor Shobha Karandlaje accused the Congress of preparing the manifesto to "appease Muslims".

'Pressure from PFI'

Assam Chief Minister Himanth Bishwa Sharma, who too is campaigning in Karnataka for the BJP, alleged that the Congress had included the issue on banning Bajrang Dal in its manifesto due to the "pressure from the PFI".

24 rebels expelled from Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee's disciplinary committee has expelled 24 leaders, including three former MLAs, from the party for six years for contesting the May 10 State Assembly elections as rebels against the party's official candidates in different constituencies.

The party expelled former MLAs Ramakrishna Doddamani (Shirahatti), B.B. Ramaswamy Gowda (Kunigal), and H.P. Rajesh (Jagalur), said a release signed by disciplinary committee chairman K. Rahman Khan.

Poll promise on MSP hailed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former chairperson of Karnataka Agriculture Prices Commission (KAPC) T.N. Prakash Kammaradi welcomed the Congress' poll promise of implementing a policy on prices of Agricultural and Horticultural crop to ensure MSPs on the basis of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Committee's report and the recommendations of the Karnataka Agricultural Prices Commission.

In a release, Dr. Kammaradi said that the Congress was worthy of getting the support of farmers through such a poll promise.

Cong. promises ₹1.5 lakh cr. to complete irrigation projects

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Along with its five poll guarantees of Gruha Lakshmi, Anna Bhagya, Yuvanidhi, Shakthi, and Gruha Jyothi to be implemented in the first Cabinet meeting, the Congress has announced investments of ₹1.5 lakh crore over the next five years to complete pending irrigation projects in the State and another ₹1.5 lakh crore to modernise agriculture.

On pension scheme

In region specific and sector-specific promises, the manifesto released on Tuesday said ₹50,000 crore for development of infrastructure in villages will be earmarked. It said it would sympathetically consider the demands of government employees who joined service after 2006 to implement Old Pension Scheme. It said that transport workers would be treated on a par with government workers.

Police personnel on night duty will get an additional allowance of ₹5,000 per month along with a month's salary extra every year, the manifesto said.

A transparent tendering system in major departments such a public works. Panchayat Raj, irrigation, urban development, and power would be brought in to curb corrupt practises, the manifesto said, promising to have specific timelines for conducting elections to all local bodies.

The MSP will be based on Agriculture Price Commission recommendation, it said, adding that under Ksheera Kranti scheme a target will be set to produce 1.5 crore litres of milk daily in Karnataka. Under Matsya Kranthi scheme, ₹12,000 crore would be invested to improve income in blue economy.

With increasing number of people now dependent on gig work, the Congress has promised setting up of Gig Workers Welfare Board, besides separate boards for auto drivers and taxi drivers.

While it has promised hawking zones in all districts, it has also promised minimum wages for garment workers.

Some key Congress promises

- Investments to the tune of ₹1.5 lakh crore each to modernise agriculture and complete irrigation works
- ₹50,000 crore to be spent on development of infrastructure in villages
- Incentive for dairy farmers to be increased from ₹5 per litre to ₹7
- To sympathetically consider Old Pension Scheme for those who have joined government service after 2006
- Salaries of anganwadi and mini-anganwadi workers to be enhanced to ₹15,000 and ₹10,000, respectively
- To increase solar power production by 5,000 MW
- ₹5,000 crore each for infrastructure development in Kalyana Karnataka, Kittur Karnataka, and Mysuru Karnataka, and ₹2,500 crore for Karavali Karnataka annually
- ₹1,000 crore for preservation of temples and mutts
- Jayadeva-like cardiac care hospital, Kidwai-like cancer care hospital, and NIMHANS-like psychiatric care hospital to be set up in every revenue division
- Deemed expenditure clause to be removed in the SC/ST Act to prevent misuse of money allocated for welfare of SC/ST communities
- Comprehensive plan to uplift communities in OBC category 1 whose population is about 12% of the State population
- Separate boards for the welfare of ex-servicemen, gig workers, auto drivers, and taxi drivers
- Dr. Rajkumar Film City to be built in Mysuru

Puneeth heart health scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress has announced plans to set up Puneeth Rajkumar Heart Health scheme to provide subsidy to doctors, clinics, and nursing homes to procure Defibrillator (AED). The scheme has been named after the popular Kannada actor who passed away in 2021 after a heart ailment. The Congress has also announced that it will set up a film city in the name of Puneeth's father and the late thespian Rajkumar at Mysuru.

Incidentally, Puneeth's elder brother and actor Shivarajkumar and his wife Geetha Shivarajkumar met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday.

With a large number of Kannadigas now settled in various countries, the Congress has announced setting up a separate Ministry for NRI-Kannadigas.

For Kashmiri pandits

As a welfare measure for Kashmir Pandits who have migrated to Karnataka, the party has announced setting up Kashmir Cultural Centre at the cost of ₹15 crore and a one-time grant of ₹25 crore.

The party has also promised a Mangalamukhi Welfare Board for Gender Minorities. For the welfare of ex -servicemen, the party has promised Field Marshal Cariappa Ex-servicemen Development Board. Senior citizens have been promised free pilgrimage to one of the 15 holy places in Karnataka and one of the 10 holy places in India once in two years.

Bird strike

The helicopter carrying KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar had to make an emergency landing at HAL Airport in Bengaluru on Tuesday after the windshield broke due to a bird hit. The Congress leader was heading towards Mulbagal in Kolar district when the incident occurred. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BJP attempts to queer Siddaramaiah's pitch by fielding Somanna

Laiqh A. Khan
MYSURU

Few Assembly constituencies in Old Mysore region have attracted as much public attention as has Varuna in Mysuru from where former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is facing an electoral challenge from Housing Minister V. Somanna.

Carved out of parts of Mysuru, T. Narsipur and Nanjangud taluks in 2008, Varuna Assembly constituency has remained the pocket borough of Mr. Siddaramaiah and the Congress. After achieving successive victories during the 2008 and 2013 Assembly elections, Mr. Siddaramaiah vacated the seat in 2018 in favour his son Yathindra, who not only continued the winning streak, but also substantially widened the victory margin.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who suffered a humiliating debacle from neighbouring Chamundeshwari Assembly constituency during 2018 polls at the hands of G.T. Deve Gowda of the Janata Dal (Secular), has returned to comparatively safer electoral turf of Varuna Assembly constituency in the ensuing elections.

But, the BJP's decision to field Mr. Somanna, a veteran leader of Lingayat community with proven organisational skills, has queered Mr. Siddaramaiah's electoral pitch in Varuna that not only has a substantial population of Lingayats, but also houses Suttur Mutt, a prominent Mutt of the community.

Soon after the BJP announced Mr. Somanna as its candidate for the constituency, Mr. Siddaramaiah was quick to label him as an "outsider" while he himself was born and brought up in the constituency. Also, he appealed to the people of the constituency to bless him in the "last election" of his political career that started from the same region more than four decades ago.

Promise of development

The BJP, while rejecting the "outsider" tag, has promised to usher in "Govindarajanagar-like" development in Varuna, referring to the constituency in Bengaluru that Mr. Somanna represented.

With Mr. Siddaramaiah campaigning for the party in different constituencies of the State, his own campaign in Varuna is led by Mr. Yathindra, who is also the sitting MLA, while Mr. Somanna has also launched an intense high-voltage campaign in the constituency, accompanied by Mysuru MP Pratap Simha and other BJP leaders.

Mr. Somanna's campaign, however, has been marred by hostile questions posed to him and the accompanying BJP leaders in a few villages, as well as the clashes between BJP and Congress supporters in at least two places including Siddaramanahundi, which is Mr. Siddaramaiah's native village.

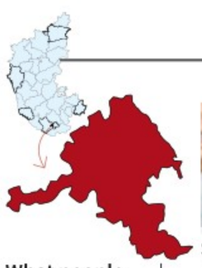
While the BJP's electoral calculations take the large number of Lingayat votes in the constituency into account, the Congress party campaigners believe that Mr. Siddaramaiah's support base, cultivated through successive elections, cuts across various communities in the constituency that comprise chunks of Dalits, Kurubas, Nayakas, and Vokkaligas and other traditional Congress voters, besides the Lingayats.

Meanwhile, the JD(S) this time has opted for N. Bharathi Shankar, a former BJP MLA representing T. Narsipur constituency belonging to the Dalit community, prompting Mr. Siddaramaiah to remark that the JD(S) had joined the BJP again in the elections to defeat him. "The BJP and the JD(S) have an internal understanding," he said, while accusing the JD (S) of fielding Mr. Bharathi Shankar only to divide Dalit votes.

'Last elections'

It remains to be seen if Mr. Siddaramaiah, who made it to the post of Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly after his win from the constituency in 2008 and to the coveted post of Chief Minister after the triumph in the 2013 polls, will pull off yet another victory in his "last elections".

Varuna Assembly Constituency

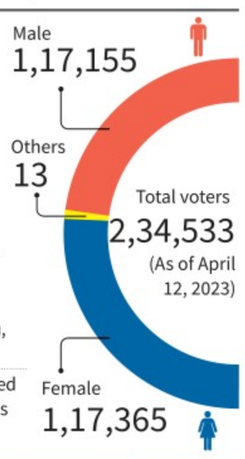


Main candidates

Siddaramaiah (Congress)

V. Somanna (BJP)

N. Bharathi Shankar (JD-S)



What people want

- Establishment of more industries and employment for youth

History of the seat

- Varuna Assembly constituency, which came into existence in 2008 after the delimitation exercise, comprises parts of Mysuru, Nanjangud, and T. Narsipur taluks
- Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has successfully contested elections from the constituency twice – 2008 and 2013 while his son Yathindra Siddaramaiah won in 2018

Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	Yathindra Siddaramaiah (Cong.)	96,435 55.09%	T. Basavaraju (BJP)	37,819 21.6%	Abhishek S. Manegar (JD-S)	28,123 16.07%
2013	Siddaramaiah (Congress)	84,385 52.53%	Kapu Siddalingaswamy (KJP)	54,744 34.08%	Cheluvaraju (JD-S)	2,686 1.67%

In south Karnataka, a great deal hinges on how JD(S) fares

Nistula Hebbar
MYSURU/MANDYA

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi hitting the campaign trail in Karnataka, and the Congress also upping the ante with extensive tour programmes by All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Priyanka Vadra Gandhi, the poll fray looks like a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) versus Congress field but, in the end, the decision may boil down to who prevails in the Congress versus Janata Dal-Secular (JD-S) turf of southern Karnataka. The Congress numbers will be inversely proportionate to the JD(S) according to the patchwork of support bases through the State.

For both the Congress and the BJP, the prospects of gaining a full majority in the Assembly are hinged on southern Karnataka, where the third party in the State, the JD(S), holds on tenaciously to its support base. For the BJP, things would be good if the JD(S) does well, for example, as it did in the 2006 Assembly polls, where the regional party got 58 seats and formed a coalition government with the BJP, the first stint in power for the saffron party in Karnataka. For the Congress, the JD(S) is competition for both the Vokkaliga and minority votes, with both communities present in large numbers in southern Karnataka.

The BJP, which has till now failed to gain significant traction in the area, is fielding Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for campaigning in the area, as the Adichunchunagiri Math, the foremost math for the Vokkaliga community, is part of the Nath Sampradaya, the same as the Gorakhnath Peeth, which is headed by Mr. Adityanath.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Modi is clocking his eighth visit to Mysuru since 2014. While the BJP's push is strong, the ties of the maths may not be enough to overcome old political loyalties in this area, accounting for 60 seats, and stretching from Chamarjnagar to Bengaluru Rural.

In the constituency of Varuna, from which former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is contesting, the Congress has been active in campaigning, especially on the legal journey of the the reservation policy announced by the Bommai government for increasing reservations for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST), and the quota within quota thereof.

For Shakuntala Kumari, in Ramgiri village, close to where the old Bollywood blockbuster *Sholay* was shot, her status as part of one of two Lingayat families in her village, the vote is for BJP. "We will vote for the BJP, for Narendra Modi, in every poll," Ms. Kumari said.

The keen contest in southern Karnataka is therefore distinguished by the fact that not only is it a fight between the Congress and the JD(S) directly, but that it's the BJP which is the nascent third force. The implications of that may well decide who enters the Vidhan Soudha with a majority.

Exercise restraint, EC tells parties in Karnataka Assembly poll campaign

The BJP and Congress yet again approach the poll body with complaints and counter-complaints

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Taking serious note of the "plummeting" level of campaign discourse for the Karnataka Assembly poll, the Election Commission of India (EC) on Tuesday asked political parties, particularly their star campaigners, to exercise restraint and focus on "issue-based" debates.

The poll body has received numerous complaints and counter-complaints from political parties in the fray for the poll, slated for May 10 in Karnataka. The complaints have been against top leaders like Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Through an advisory, the EC directed all national as well as State parties and candidates to exercise caution and restraint in their utterances during campaigning, and not vitiate the election atmosphere. It said that, recently, its attention had been drawn to instances of inappropriate vocabulary used during the ongoing campaign by political parties, and in particular, their star campaigners.

National parties and star campaigners enjoy extra enablements within the Representation of People Act, it noted.

Inviting the attention of political parties to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), the poll body said: "The use of provocative and inflammatory statements, intemperate and abusive language transgressing the limits of decency, attacks on the personal character and conduct of political rivals, vitiate the level playing field. The spirit of the MCC is not just avoidance of a direct violation, it also prohibits attempts to vitiate the electoral space through suggestive or indirect statements or innuendoes."

"They are thus expected to contribute to maintaining and raising the level of discourse to 'issue'-based debate, provide pan-India perspective, depth to the local discourse, and reassure all sections of electors to participate fully and fearlessly in a free and fair election," it added.

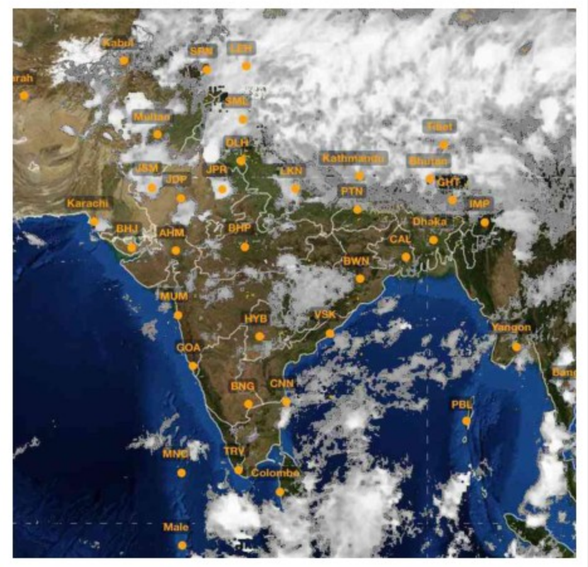
The ECI's directive comes on a day when the BJP yet again complained to the commission against Congress leader Priyank Kharge for his "*nalayak*" (stupid) barb against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Earlier, the party had filed a complaint and sought the filing of a criminal case against his Mr. Priyank Kharge's father, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, for his "poisonous snake" remark against the PM.

The BJP also raised the issue of the Congress promising tough action against the Bajrang Dal in the Congress' election manifesto for Karnataka, released on Tuesday.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, who led the BJP's delegation to the ECI, said the Bajrang Dal was an organisation devoted to Lord Hanuman and to serving people, and said the Congress' attack on it was "shameful".

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, coastal Andhra Pradesh, south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.0	24.8	Kozhikode	4	34.1	24.7
Ahmedabad	—	36.5	24.3	Kurnool	—	35.1	23.5
Aizawl	17	34.5	17.4	Lucknow	4	32.0	20.0
Allahabad	18.8	33.2	20.2	Madurai	—	33.6	25.4
Bengaluru	27	30.4	21.0	Mangaluru	—	34.6	26.0
Bhopal	13.5	—	20.0	Mumbai	—	32.8	25.3
Bhubaneswar	—	37.0	21.9	Mysuru	38	35.7	23.0
Chandigarh	11	24.3	19.0	New Delhi	14.8	28.3	19.3
Chennai	38.2	32.4	24.2	Patna	8	33.4	20.8
Coimbatore	—	34.5	23.4	Port Blair	0.2	34.0	27.9
Dehradun	14	24.4	17.8	Puducherry	1	29.7	24.0
Gangtok	8	16.2	11.4	Pune	—	35.0	20.6
Goa	—	34.3	24.0	Raipur	—	32.6	20.9
Guwahati	0.2	33.8	23.0	Ranchi	—	29.7	19.0
Hubballi	—	38.0	21.0	Shillong	0.2	25.7	15.2
Hyderabad	3	30.8	22.8	Shimla	8	17.0	8.6
Imphal	13	30.9	19.1	Srinagar	0.5	19.8	10.6
Jaipur	—	32.4	20.7	Thiruvananthapuram	18	32.3	24.6
Kochi	23	31.0	25.0	Tiruchi	32	31.9	24.0
Kohima	10	20.6	16.0	Vijayawada	—	32.1	23.6
Kolkata	—	36.2	22.5	Visakhapatnam	23	32.5	23.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	..17	.24	...119	...124	
Bengaluru	...9	185	.37	20	27	
Chennai	...2	..57	121	26	24	
Delhi	.10	113	.46	64	81	
Hyderabad	..—	2	133	26	30	
Kolkata	.15	..38	.17	50	66	
Lucknow	.10	110	.39	43	49	
Mumbai	.10	..13	.11	...138	...100	
Pune	114	159	113	70	62	
Visakhapatnam	.17	..46	.18	49	...115	

Yesterday
In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 295 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

HC rejects plea seeking facility for NRIs to vote abroad

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday declined to entertain a PIL petition seeking a direction to the Election Commission of India to provide facilities to the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to cast their votes in their respective residing countries in the elections to the State Legislative Assembly.

A vacation Division Bench comprising Justice Krishna S. Dixit and Justice Vijayakumar A. Patil passed the order rejecting the petition filed by 39-year-old Ravi M., founder and joint secretary of Sagarottara Kannadigaru Association, which is a registered organisation in the United Kingdom. The petitioner, who hails from Bengaluru, is working as a registered nurse in Saudi Arabia and at present he is in the city.

Postal ballot

It was pointed out in the petition that the petitioner gave a representation to the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, on April 17 seeking facility for Non-Resident Indians to vote, in the countries in which they are at present residing, either through postal ballot or by setting up polling booth in the respective embassies.

The petitioner claimed that countries like Italy and Philippines allow their citizens abroad to cast votes through the Embassy.

CPI(M) Kerala secretary files case against Swapna

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

CPI (Marxist) Kerala secretary M.V. Govindan has filed a defamation case against Swapna Suresh, prime accused in the diplomatic baggage gold smuggling case. He filed the petition at the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court, Taliparamba, demanding that a case be filed under Sections 120 B and 500 of IPC.

In a live session on social media, Swapna had alleged that Vijesh Pillai, CEO of OTT platform Action based in Bengaluru, acting on behalf of Mr. Govindan, offered to pay her ₹30 crore for handing over all information or evidence about Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his family, and CM's additional private secretary C.M. Raveendran.

TELANGANA STATE INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Telangana Undertaking)
"Parishrama Bhavan", 6th Floor, 5-9-58/B, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad, PIN:500004, Telangana.
Ph: 23237625, Fax: 040-23240205, Email: vcmd@tsiic.telangana.gov.in.

Request for Proposal (RfP)

RfP No. /CE/TSIIC/2022-23 Dt.: 03.05.2023

Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (TSIIC), the nodal agency of Government of Telangana for development of industrial infrastructure in the State, invites Request for Proposal (RfP) for "Development of IT Tower at Malakpet, Hyderabad, Telangana, India on Joint Development Basis-Second Re-Tender"
The Request for Proposal (RfP) document can be downloaded from www.tsiic.telangana.gov.in from 04.05.2023. Last date for submission of Proposals: 02.06.2023, 16.30Hrs (IST).
DIPR R.O. No.SPL-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2023-24 Dt.02.05.2023 Sd/- Vice-Chairman & Managing Director

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA, PIN:751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020,
e-Mail: theocclt@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM
"e"-Procurement Notice No. 06 /OCCL/2023-24 (on-line)
On-line tender is invited for the following work on EPC-Turn Key Basis:

Sl No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Approx. Value of work (Rs. in Crores) (excluding GST)	Bid Security (through on-line transfer / Bank Guarantee) (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Availability of Tender (on-line)	Submission of tender (on-line)
01	Construction of Distribution System for 2526 ha. of CCA including Command Area Development (CAD) in 9 Nos. of Minor Irrigation Projects through Under Ground Pipe Line Irrigation System (gravity flow) in Ganjam, Kandhamal, Nayagarh & Sambalpur District of Odisha on EPC-Turn key basis including Operation, & Maintenance of complete commissioned project for 5 (five) years. (Package-IV)	OCCL-UGPL/ MI,Pkg 4/ 2023-24	Rs.7148.58 Lakhs	Rs.71,49,000/-	24 (twenty four) Calendar months	From 04.05.2023, 03.30 PM to 17.06.2023, 5.30 PM.	From 04.05.2023, 03.30 PM to 17.06.2023, 5.30 PM.

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCCL
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid : 19.06.2023, 11.30 AM
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal : https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
CAD-424 MANAGING DIRECTOR
OIPR-34120/11/0010/2324

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
GANGA PUMP CANAL DIVISION, SAHIBGANJ

e- Procurement Short Tender Notice

e-Tender Reference no.- WRD/GPCDIV/SBG/SBD/01/2023-24 , Dated :02.05.2023

1	Name of Department	WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF JHARKHAND
2	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Ganga Pump Canal Division, Sahibganj
3	Name of Work	Anti Erosion work on the right bank of river Ganga from Downstream of STP to Chanan in 900M length, under block Borio under district Sahibganj.Bed bar 60M C/C (900M) (Lat-25.24339^0, Long-87.660794^0)
4	Estimated Cost of BOQ	**972.216 lakh.**
5	Time of Completion	300 Days
6	Cost of BOQ (Tender Fee)	Rs. 10,000.00
7	Date of Publication of Tender on website	10/05/2023
8	Bid downloading period	11/05/2023 to 24/05/2023
9	Last date / Time for receipt of bids	24/05/2023 up to 05:00 pm
10	Date and Time of Opening of Tender	26/05/2023 at 03:00 PM
11	Last Date of Deposit of Earnest money & cost of BOQ and place	Up to 25/05/2023 (05:00 PM) at all working days. at Office of the Executive Engineer, Ganga Pump Canal Division, Sahibganj.
12	Contact no. of Procurement officer	7677240428

Further details can be seen on website *http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in*
PR 296351 District(23-24)#D
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Ganga Pump Canal Division, SAHIBGANJ

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client B.V. Jayamma has lost the original sale deed of Property bearing Site No. 6, House List Khatha No. 50/1, situated at Kodigehalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk presently having postal address as No. 6, Prashanth Layout, Kodegehalli, Kadugodi Post, Bengaluru-560067, measuring East to West 28 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, bounded on East by : Rose Garden, West by : Private Property, North by: Private Property, South by 20 Feet Road, registered on 17th April 1998 as Document No.319/1998-99, dated 5-08-1998 stored in CD no. ICD-010 regd in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, K.R.Puram. Finder of the said Documents please return the same to the undersigned.

MUNEER AHMED
ADVOCATE & NOTARY
No. 48/1, Swami Vivekanda Road, (Old Madras Road), Near Halasuru Someshwara Chariot, Opposite to Metro Pillar No. 120, Halasuru, Bengaluru-560008
Mobile: 98457 12075

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1 AT BANGALORE
O.A. No. 1360of 2020

M/s. UNION BANK OF INDIA
(Erstwhile M/s. CORPORATION BANK)
R.P.C. LAYOUT BR., B'LORE-560104.
Rep. by its Chief Manager V/s. ....APPLICANT
Sri. VARGHESE A.E.
....DEFENDANT

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT ISSUED UNDER REGULATIONS-16 OF THE DRT-I-2015

Sri. VARGHESE A.E.
Major, S/o. Sri. Ettoop Arical, @ # 366, 6th Cross, 3rd Floor, 8th Main Road, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-40.
Prop. M/s. MARBASIL GRANITES,
WHEREAS the above named Applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the defendant for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 27,14,938/=** alongwith court costs, and current & future interest and other reliefs from the date of application till date of recovery. You are hereby required **to show cause within 30 days of the service of the summons or on 30th day of June 2023 at 10:30 a.m.** either in person or duly instructed pleader as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
Take Notice that, in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 21st day of February 2023 at Bangalore.
Sd/- (Asst. REGISTRAR)
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2 for Karnataka
4, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, 1st Floor Residency (Heyas) Road, Bangalore-560 025.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of General Public, that my client **MR.ABDUL WAJID,** S/o Late N.Ameerjan, Residing at House No.M21, 25th Main Road, TMC Layout, Sarakki, LIC Colony, J.P.Nagar, 1st Phase, Bangalore – 560 078, AADHAR NO.4694 9792 2427, intends to purchase the schedule property from **1. MR.AMJAD KHAN,** AADHAR NO.7038 9235 7624 and **2. MRS.ERAM FATHIMA,** AADHAR NO.2324 4246 7343, Both are Residing at No.32/2, 20th Main Road, Shamanna Garden, Ramaswamy Layout, J.P.Nagar, 5th Phase, Bangalore – 560 078.
This notice is hereby given for the information of General public that, any persons/Banks/Financial institutes having any right, title, share, claim or interest against/in the schedule property may contact me with their documentary/legitimate proof in support of their claim within **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of this notice. If no claim is so lodged with me within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication, after which my clients shall proceed with the Absolute Sale Deed on the basis that there are no claims whatsoever, as if the same is free from all kinds of claims/encumbrances and no claim shall be entertained later.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Southern portion of **Site No.32,** Present BBMP Khatha No.207/215/215/11/2/32, Old Khatha No.11/2, formed in Sy.No.11/2, vide Conversion Order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)25/99-2000, dt: 24/02/2000, Situated at **Sarakki Kere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** Presently coming under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Measuring : East to West 40-0 (Forty) feet and North to South : 30-0 (Thirty) feet, in all measuring **1200 Square feet. AND BOUNDED ON THE :**
East by : Road, West by : Smt.Nanjamma's Property, North by : Northern portion of same Site No.32, South by : Site No.5.

Mrs.Manjula Shivukumar, Advocate
No. C-1, 1st Floor, Maruthi Pearl Plaza, D.V.G. Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. Mob: 9945027091.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General Public as well as Government and Private Institutions that Our Client Mr. Shaik Fahad Son of Mr. Shaik Waheed. N aged about 31 years resident of Keel Krishnarajpuram, Krishnarajpura, Kolar – 563121 Aadhaar number 202865829851, herein after called the "Releasee" (which term shall mean and include himself, his heirs, legal representatives, administrators, executors, assigns etc,) of the other part intends to Purchase the following Schedule Property.

Schedule Property

All the piece and parcel of the immovable property residential house property along with standing structure thereon bearing site number 323 having PID number 55-683-323 formed by the Jaraganahalli House Building co-operative society Ltd., situated at 7th Cross, Kadirenahalli, Bengaluru measuring East to West : 30.0 feet and North to South : 44.5 feet total measuring 1335 square feet, bounded on;

East by : site number 324,
West by : site number 322,
North by : site number 328,
South by : Road,

Thus; if anybody having any objection for the same, or any Person/ bank/ financial institution having any claim/charge on the said property, are requested to contact the undersigned on the below mentioned address with 7 days of the publication of this notice. Any claim whatsoever made thereafter will not be binding on my client.

IQRA Law Associates,
19, Lazer Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005.
Mobile: 9611124031, 9066205747, 8095309604.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client is intending to Purchase the property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from its present owner **Sri. Vittal Murthy,** who has represented that he has a clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions, statutory authorities or any other persons/s representing any private or public companies or any partnership firm or any society who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned, **within Seven (7) days** from the date of issue of this notice with documentary evidence failing which, it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and any objection/s or claims made thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my client would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **agricultural properties bearing (1) Sy.No.155/1 measuring about 27 Guntas and (2) Sy.No.156 measuring about 29 Guntas, totally measuring about 1 Acre 16 Guntas of Bhatrenahalli Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore rural District** with the following boundaries:

East by : Sidi Maramma Temple's Property,
West by : Government Road,
North by : Property belonging to K.S.Muniramaiaha,
South by : Property belonging to K.S.Muniramaiaha

B.R.Ravi Kumar
Advocate
No. 537, 10th B Cross, Yelahanka New Town, **Bangalore - 560064**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, KARTHIKEYAN F/O Poorvika UK R/O MS Royal Apt GF004, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main Arekere, Bangalore –76, have changed my daughter's name from Poorvika VK to Poorvika UK vide Affidavit dated 26/04/23

I, MOHAMED Azam Sherif, S/o Ayub Pasha, R/at No. 29/26-1, 4th Cross, Lalji Nagar, Lakkasandra, Bangalore-560030 have changed my name to Mohammed Azam Sherif vide affidavit dated 01-05-2023 before Notary Sivakumara.M. N, Bengaluru.

I, GOKULA, W/o Shekar Achaiah Badam, R/at No.471, Park View, 2nd Floor, 11th Main, M.R.C.R. Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040, have changed my name from Gokula to Gokula Shekar vide affidavit dated 29-04-2023 before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

I, SUDALAIYANDI E, S/o Essakiappan R/at #21, Narayanaswamy Building, Varadaraj Layout, 5th Cross, Amruthahalli, Bengaluru-560092 have changed my name from Sudalaiyandi E to Sudalaiyandi vide affidavit dated 29-04-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, ANSHU Kumari Yadav,spouse of Vijay Kumar Chaudhari presently residing at : SMQ 21/08, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengalore-560063 have changed my name from Anshu Kumari Yadav to Ansoo Yadav vide affidavit dated 02-05-2023 before Notary H.Sridhar Rao Bangalore.

REAL ESTATE

Flat For Sale R T Nagar Two Car Park Phone : 9886853950, 9845027880. Brokers Excuse.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I Avinash S/o Shankar Rao Ambalgi, residing at Plot 171, Chincholi Layout, Opp Vijayanagar Clny, Kalaburagi, Karnataka - 585102, have changed my name to Avinash Ambalgi for all purposes in future.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS to notify that I (Roshaan S) lost my class X Pass Certificate issued by ICSE board and is irrecoverable. Passing year– 2010. Index no.– T/3106/102. School–Bethany High School. 8778349374

TENDERS

THE PONDICHERRY CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD., NO. P.1

Ref. Ponlait/E-Tender/Hiring of RMT/2020 Date:02.05.2023

E-Tender Notice

Invitation for Engaging Hired Insulated Road Milk Tanker vehicles for Collection of Chilled Milk from BMCs / Chilling Centers to Dairy, Ponlait
Web site address:
www.pudutenders.gov.in
e-Tender ID:
2023_COOP_ 12465_1)
Required Vehicles:
15 KL RMT - 3 Numbers
Last Date for Submission:
23.05.2023 before 04.00 P.M.
Contact Ponlait:
0413-2271607, 9942994136
Contact e-procurement cell:
0413-2220225
MANAGING DIRECTOR

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Sad Demise
Sri. R.Amirtham Iyer (86 yrs)
Madirimangalam

DOD: 02.05.2023
Deeply mourned by
Wife, Sons, Daughters-in-law & Grand Children, Ph: 9952075698

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY

NIDEESH.V.B
BBA, LLB (Hon's)
(School of Law, Christ University, Bangalore)

You continue to live on in our hearts forever, your memories will always be cherished
Parents, Sisters, & Friends.

Long week

Communal politics, welfare measures dominate the Karnataka campaign

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular), the three main contenders in Karnataka, have released their manifestos and campaigning is climbing to a crescendo. The State will vote to elect a new Assembly on May 10 and the results will be announced three days later. The three parties have promised a slew of welfare measures. The Congress and the BJP are also trying to amplify their ideological markers. For the BJP, the election is not merely about fighting for a second consecutive term in power but is also about winning an absolute majority of its own for the first time, and even reshaping the politics of the southern State. It has promised largesse including three free cooking gas cylinders a year, and half a litre of local dairy brand 'Nandini' milk every day to select beneficiaries. By specifically mentioning 'Nandini', the BJP is trying to counter allegations of supporting Gujarat-based Amul's plan for market expansion in Karnataka at the cost of 'Nandini'. But the edge of its campaign is the promise of implementation of a National Register of Citizens, a controversial initiative which was originally confined to Assam, and a Uniform Civil Code for all religious communities. Both are hot button topics that could sharpen communal divides. With the tone being set, the party is likely to raise the decibel level on its core ideological positioning in the remaining days of campaigning.

The Congress's welfare promises include 200 units of free electricity for all households and free travel for women in public transport across the State. The party has taken a relatively more strident position against Hindutva when compared to its campaigns in some recent State elections. But it is also walking a tightrope to not discomfort religious Hindus. It has spoken out strongly about the security and welfare of Muslims who are facing hostile state policy under the BJP. The Congress has promised to restore the four per cent reservation for Muslims which was discontinued by the BJP State government just before the announcement of the election. The JD (S) too has promised to restore the reservation. In addition, the Congress's promises include the revision of several laws made by the BJP government and a reversal of changes to the school curriculum to boost the Hindutva narrative. Both the BJP and the Congress appear to agree on targeting the JD(S) which is fighting hard to preserve its base among the Vokkaliga community in south Karnataka. With many members of the family of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda in the fray, the JD(S) is defending itself against allegations of nepotism. But with the intense campaign, one week is a long time in politics.

A good divorce

Irretrievable breakdown of marriage should be a ground for divorce

Not all marriages are happy, and not all divorces are unhappy. For those who want to opt out of a bad marriage, Monday's Supreme Court ruling on divorce will be seen as a good move. Leaning on the "guiding spirit" of Article 142(1) of the Constitution to do "complete justice" in any "cause or matter", a Constitution Bench said it could use this extraordinary discretionary power to grant divorce by mutual consent to couples trapped in bitter marriages. It also aims to spare couples the "agony and misery" of waiting six to 18 months for a local court to annul it, as stipulated under Section 13B of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. The Bench, headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, observed that the law of divorce, built predominantly on assigning fault, fails to serve broken marriages. It pointed out that if a marriage is wrecked beyond hope, public interest lies in recognising this fact, not upholding a 'married' status regardless. The Court said it could use Article 142 to quash pending criminal or legal proceedings, be it over domestic violence or dowry, against the man or woman. Continuing in this strain, the Bench said the Supreme Court could grant divorce on the grounds of an "irretrievable breakdown of marriage" if the "separation is inevitable and the damage is irreparable". Under the Hindu Marriage Act, irretrievable breakdown of marriage is not yet a ground for divorce.

In its judgment, there was a word of caution that the grant of divorce would not be a "matter of right, but a discretion which is to be exercised with great care... keeping in mind that 'complete justice' is done to both parties." Several factors would be considered by the Supreme Court before invoking Article 142 in matrimonial cases, including duration of marriage, period of litigation, the time the couple has stayed apart, the nature of pending cases, and attempts at reconciliation. The Court will have to be satisfied that the mutual agreement to divorce was not under coercion. In India, while divorcees have doubled in number over the past two decades, the incidence of divorce is still at 1.1%, with those in urban areas making up the largest proportion. But the divorce numbers do not tell the whole story; there are many women, particularly among the poor, who are abandoned or deserted. Census 2011 revealed that the population which is "separated" is almost triple the divorced number. In a country which is largely poor, where gender discrimination is rife and many women are still not financially independent, the Court's stress on "care and caution" and not to rush into a quick divorce must be welcomed. After all, marriage equality is not a reality for all.

The LAC crisis and the danger of losing without fighting

Sushant Singh

is Senior Fellow of the Centre of Policy Research, New Delhi

It was in the first week of May 2020 that news broke of ingress by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) in multiple areas across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. Three years later, some of those areas have witnessed disengagement – pulling troops apart by a few miles of buffer zones – while two of them, Depsang and Demchok, remain unresolved. Indian soldiers cannot touch 26 of the 65 patrolling points in Ladakh.

Neither diplomatic meetings nor talks between corps commanders have elicited any progress since September last year; regular meetings between Indian and Chinese Ministers, Foreign and Defence, have not yielded results either. Beijing has ignored Delhi's talking points, even after they have been watered down so much that India no longer demands a return to the status quo of April 2020. Verbose *non sequiturs* in Indian statements can hardly cover up the government's failure in handling the current China crisis.

The Depsang crisis of 2013

During the 2013 Depsang crisis, the United Progressive Alliance was in power, the current External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was India's Ambassador to Beijing and the current Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt. Gen. K.T. Parnaik (retired) was the Northern Army Commander. The PLA had then blocked Indian patrols at Bottleneck or Y-Junction, the same place where it has now blocked them in Depsang since 2020. Within three weeks, the PLA had been forced to lift the block after the Indian Army, as per Lt. Gen. Parnaik, launched a *quid pro quo* operation on the Chinese side in Chumar. Negotiations followed, including in Beijing, and the status quo as it existed before PLA's block was restored.

The criticism of the government over those three weeks was deafening. Narendra Modi, then Chief Minister of Gujarat, argued that the problem was not on the border but in Delhi. He also asked why our soldiers were vacating the area after disengagement if they were on Indian territory.

Most media reports were strident in criticising the government then, but the same journalists have been silent when the very same spot has been blocked by the PLA for over three years. Their constant labelling of Depsang as a legacy issue disconnected with the current crisis so offended former Ladakh Corps Commander, Lt. Gen. Rakesh Sharma (retd.) that he was compelled to pen a strong rejoinder. However, misleading claims about Depsang continue to be regurgitated.

> India will have to wrest the initiative from China as far as the border crisis is concerned or else things will happen only at a time and place of Beijing's choosing

Unlike mainstream media, the military brass (this includes the Indian Army chief General Manoj Pande, and the Northern Army Commander, Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi) has been more forthcoming about the ground realities. The cover up emanates from the political leadership, in the silence of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister or by way of the deceptive euphemisms of the External Affairs Minister. The reason is known even to watchers in Washington DC. A White House official until 2021, Lisa Curtis, wrote recently that the government of the day "might not want its public to know the full extent of PLA activities in disputed areas as this might become fodder to protest government incompetence or inaction".

Incompetence and inaction

Incompetence may be a function of capability, but inaction seems to be driven by fear – a fear of military escalation in case India were to attempt a proactive move in disputed border areas to unsettle Beijing. If negotiations are about 'give and take', New Delhi must militarily take something that its diplomats can then give at the table. Devoid of that, Beijing holds all the cards. No one can deny that China is a much bigger economic, military, industrial and geopolitical power than India, but the gap shrinks considerably when it comes to local balance on the LAC. If Russia is unable to vanquish Ukraine, Chinese President Xi Jinping knows that China cannot militarily walk over India.

The decision rests with the Prime Minister but he seems haunted by the ghost of 1962. Many officials believe that Jawaharlal Nehru was pushed into a military confrontation with China then because of domestic pressure created by the likes of the Swatantra Party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. The Prime Minister does not wish to fall into that trap. They are right. Mr. Modi is no Nehru. Nehru faced Parliament and answered questions regularly, even during the 1962 conflict. Unlike Nehru's time, the public relations and propaganda machinery now has fabricated such a hyper-nationalist narrative that more than 70% Indians contend that India can militarily defeat China. The pressure on Mr. Modi to militarily deliver, when the ruling party's political campaigns have ridden the hype of so-called 'Surgical Strikes' and Balakot airstrike, is even greater.

Over nine years, Mr. Xi seems to have got the measure of Mr. Modi. Mr. Xi sent PLA soldiers to Chumar even as there was intense media focus and the hyped optics during the Xi visit to Ahmedabad, Gujarat, in 2014. The Chinese leader rebuffed the Indian leader's plea in Beijing in 2015 to delineate the LAC, has blocked India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and has remained vague about the outcomes of informal summits. Satellite imagery shows that the Chinese were already building massive military infrastructure in Ladakh by the time the Second Informal Summit was taking place in Mamallapuram, off Chennai, in late 2019. However, Mr. Modi's faith in the force of his personality and personal charm to win over the Chinese leader, such as by offering a handshake and having a chat in Bali last November, did not result in even a telephone call, let alone a breakthrough on the Ladakh border.

Proactive move

India is under pressure on the border, and it needs to find a way to transfer that pressure back to China. Beijing has never compromised unless it has been forced into an uncomfortable spot – a tactic India has deployed since Nathu La in 1967. This warrants India to be proactive, which calls for the political leadership to boldly use its imagination. If the political leadership is timid and fearful, the military on the China border will remain in a defensive posture. If strategic thought in Delhi lacks boldness, tactical actions on the LAC will not be daring. After all, the military is used as an instrument by states to pursue policy ends, to try and impose its will upon the adversary.

India's failure to impose its will upon China is a direct consequence of its fear of military escalation, in the backdrop of the ghost of 1962 that hovers over the top political leadership's thinking. Three years after the border crisis began, a status quoist approach can no longer be the answer. India will have to wrest the initiative from China; else things will happen only at a time and place of Beijing's choosing. Mr. Modi's personal success may lie in avoiding another 1962 but it would be a national failure for India. Unlike 1962, China would have now won without fighting.

In 'India as Eden' offer, the apple of diluted labour laws

Anand P. Krishnan

is a Fellow at the Centre for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi National Capital Region, and a Visiting Associate Fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi

In addition to being the starting point of the possible onset of another scorching summer, the month of April also witnessed two important happenings that are tied to the country's avowed economic-industrial transformation, demanding our attention. The first was the passage of a piece of legislation in the Tamil Nadu Assembly that amended the Factory Act of 1948, to extend the number of working hours in a day, from eight hours to 12 hours. A similar piece of legislation was passed in the Karnataka Assembly, a few months ago. However, in his address during May Day celebrations in Chennai, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin, announced the withdrawal of the legislation. This announcement comes on the back of the temporary hold on further action on the Bill by the Tamil Nadu government, after strong opposition; this includes the State government's alliance partners and trade unions.

Changes in laws, no social dialogue

The eight-hour working day, adopted by the International Labour Organization in 1919, is a hard won right by workers and trade unions, who have had to struggle over the years to keep capricious policy changes at bay. While appreciating the action initiated by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, the passage, in the first place, of these pieces of legislation (which has justifiably led to anger and outcry among trade unions and labour support groups) clearly signals the intent of governments to house investments by transnational corporations (through their supply chains), by ramping up capacities and provisioning incentives. As a matter of fact, these legislative changes could trace their legacy to the four labour codes passed by the central government in 2019-20, which, in turn, have weakened the labour protection architecture, lowered thresholds and squeezed collective bargaining, thereby effectively curtailing their actual operability.

> In the prioritisation of a favourable investment climate to compete with China, there are clear signs of a scant regard for the well-being and the rights of India's workers

The key missing component in all these changes in the labour ecosystem is social dialogue. Not only are sustained processes of consultations with workers being short-circuited or ignored altogether, but these are also being considered anathema by almost all ruling dispensations irrespective of political persuasions. Remaining deterministic and sound proofed to entertaining contrarian views and differences of opinion, the top-down approach of governance often puts the cart before the horse. In doing so, it prioritises a favourable investment climate over the well-being of workers.

The second development in April that was widely publicised with much fanfare, was of Apple's opening of its first two retail stores in India, in Mumbai and then Delhi in the presence of the Apple CEO who was in India for the events. This follows his statement last year, expressing bullishness about the brand's business prospects in India, which was lapped up and trumpeted as a sign of India being well and truly in the race to run parallel with China, if not completely eclipse it in the long run. However, cutting through the hype, what is left unsaid is how Apple, and by extension, other transnational corporations too, thrives by tantalising a race between India and China. Through its suppliers, it incentivises this artificial competition, even while retaining the flexibility to operate across contending geographies and feeding on consumers' tastes, who view the possession of its devices as a status symbol.

Mainland China as template

The two happenings in April may seem separate, but from a labour-centric perspective, it is only rational to spot the connection. Already, under its 'Make in India initiative' and later with the Production Linked Incentives scheme, the central government aims to turn the country into a manufacturing hub, like China. In this larger design, the electronics industry has received top priority and, within it, Apple (entwined with Foxconn as the main supplier) has come to be considered, the gold standard. In line with this, the central government has been working in close coordination with various State governments, including Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, to work out common strategies to capitalise on the company's diversification plans away from China. For years, Foxconn has had a stable base in Tamil Nadu (encouraging other Taiwanese companies in other sectors as well). As a part of its corporate social responsibility obligations, it has even reciprocated by making massive financial contributions to the State government's educational initiatives. Such coordination and a mobilising of efforts by governments resembles the symbiotic relationship between Apple-Foxconn and the Chinese Communist Party-state.

The growing indivisibility of time (with reference to the economist Guy Standing), as marked by these legislative changes, is also illustrative of the ubiquitous nature of the production-management systems and labour regime implemented in Apple-Foxconn across geographies. The dormitory labour regime as practised in Mainland China (which in effect looks to be recreated in India) blurs the socio-spatial boundaries between work and life. In such a highly regimented, constantly disciplining, just-in-time production system that demands orderliness and standardisation from workers, the human costs of the squeeze are not only physical but also mental and emotional. Ultimately, viewed from a labour-centric perspective, in the ambition to overtake China, we end up, more or less, as being another China.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hoardings permitted

The Tamil Nadu government's move to permit hoardings in urban areas with a view to increasing revenue for civic bodies is a retrograde step and also unwise (Chennai, "Government decides to permit hoardings in urban areas", May 2).

It cannot be forgotten that many people have either been fatally or seriously injured after hoardings fell on them. The city's existing road network is overstretched and groaning under the burden of heavy vehicular traffic. The installation of hoardings on roads will further accentuate existing problems. When there are many avenues available to the government to rake in revenue, the green light for hoardings is unjustified. Human lives should take precedence over all other matters. As done in the case of the Bill amending the Factories Act, this regressive decision, to permit the use of hoardings, needs to be rolled back.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

Garbage and stray dogs

It is a fact that the number of stray dog-human conflict incidents are on the rise with the root cause being poor waste management. Many areas in India now face this issue with any small space of land becoming a landfill for garbage. Mountains of waste attract packs of stray dogs which see these spots as sources of food. This in turn poses a threat to anyone walking around these areas, more so at night, and also endangering children.

In my area, for instance, there are between 10 and 15 incidents in a year where stray dogs have either bitten or scratched people. Local municipalities need to take measures that ensure the proper disposal of solid waste. Residents and residential areas cannot be in the grip of fear because of stray dogs.

Shreyal Kothapalli,
Hyderabad

The TB fight

I write this letter as a retired professor of the Department of Biotechnology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. An article (Editorial page, "A new edge to the fight against tuberculosis", April 21) asserts the elimination of tuberculosis, focusing on human tuberculosis. The diagnosis and treatment of human tuberculosis remain a formidable challenge. Hence, efforts in this regard are essential and must be sustained. However, tuberculosis is not limited to humans alone. Identical human pathogens, as well as related pathogens, infect domesticated cattle and wildlife. Current efforts to discover and formulate strategies to eradicate tuberculosis overlook this aspect of the prevalence of tuberculosis. These infectious pathogens remain in circulation among susceptible mammals, creating reservoirs of infection, potentially transmissible to humans (zoonotic tuberculosis). Besides animal-human transmission, human-animal transmission occurs (reverse zoonosis). This complex network of reservoirs and susceptibility to infection must be interrupted. Therefore, simultaneously developing effective vaccines for our domesticated cattle and wildlife to protect them against infection would minimise the spread of tuberculosis and promote its elimination.

H. Krishna Prasad,
Mysuru

To read more letters online, scan the QR code. Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Outlawing India's tech tariffs

Prabhash Ranjan

is Professor and Vice Dean, Jindal Global Law School. Views are personal

On the complaints brought by the European Union (EU), Japan, and Taiwan, three World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement panels have found India's tariffs on certain information and communication technology (ICT) products such as mobile phones inconsistent with India's WTO obligations. Specifically, the panels concluded that India has violated Article II of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) because India's tariffs breach its Goods Schedule. Since one of the central objectives of the WTO is to boost transparency and predictability in the multilateral trading order, WTO member countries are under a legal obligation not to impose tariff rates in excess of their 'bound' or maximum tariff rates committed in their Goods Schedule. The Goods Schedules are based on the World Customs Organization's classification system, which catalogues traded products with specific names and numbers. This is also known as the Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN). Due to the continuous emergence of new products owing to technological innovations, the HSN system is regularly updated to reflect new products, also known as 'transposition'.

Reasoning of panels

To justify higher tariff rates, India argued that its binding tariff commitments on ICT products are contained in the WTO Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products (ITA Agreement), which India joined in 1997. The ITA Agreement, adopted in 1996, is an arrangement through which select WTO member countries agree to eliminate duties on IT products. However, the commitments under the ITA become binding on a country under Articles II.1(a) and (b) of GATT only if they are incorporated in the Goods Schedule. Accordingly, the panels held that India's Goods Schedule, not the ITA, is the source of India's legal obligations on tariffs, including on products covered by the ITA.

The panels also rejected India's contention that its commitments under the ITA are 'static'. India argued that its commitments under the Goods Schedule do not include products that emerged due to technological innovations after the conclusion of the ITA. But the panels held that the ITA cannot override the tariff commitments given in India's Goods Schedule.

Finally, the panels also denied India's argument based on Article 48 of the Vienna Convention on Law of Treaties, which, inter alia, declares that an error in a treaty would invalidate a state's consent. India argued that an error was committed during the transposition of its Goods Schedule from the HSN 2002 edition to the HSN 2007 edition. The panels accepted India's argument that at the time of the transposition, India had assumed that its ITA undertakings restricted the scope of its Goods Schedule – that is, the transposition process into the HSN 2007 edition did not expand the scope of India's tariff commitments. Nevertheless, the panels held that India failed to show that this assumption formed a necessary basis for India's consent for the Goods Schedule. In any case, the panels said India was put on notice that its commitments under the Goods Schedule may have expanded during the transposition process.

Appealing 'into the void'

Accordingly, the panels have recommended that India reduce its tariff rates and make them compatible with its Goods Schedule, but it is unlikely that India will comply. Compliance would mean dismantling the high protective tariff wall that India has erected hoping it will boost domestic manufacturing of ICT products. In fact, India, relying on Article 17 of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU), is likely to appeal against the panel ruling. However, the Appellate Body that hears appeals has ceased to exist since 2019 because the United States has been blocking the appointment of the body's members. Thus, India's appeal will go into the void. Legally, India will not be required to comply with the panel rulings till the time its appeal is heard.

Relying on Article 25 of the DSU, the EU and a few other WTO member countries have created an alternative appellate mechanism – the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA). However, India is not a party to this and will not use it to resolve this dispute.

EU retaliation

Can the EU impose trade sanctions on India in case India does not comply with the rulings, and appeals into the void? Under the WTO law, the EU cannot do so. The WTO law does not allow countries to impose trade sanctions when an appeal is pending. Retaliatory action in the form of trade sanctions can be imposed only after the authorisation of the Dispute Settlement Body, which comprises all WTO members.

Notwithstanding the above, the EU has developed a legal mechanism according to which if a country files an appeal against a panel under Article 17 of the DSU into the void, and refuses to use the MPIA to resolve the dispute, the EU can unilaterally impose trade sanctions against the losing country. The EU's objective is to use the stick of trade sanctions to push countries like India to join the MPIA. However, such countermeasures will be inconsistent with the WTO law. Individual countries like India can't be held responsible for a missing Appellate Body. Even if the EU does not impose trade sanctions, it might use this ruling as a bargaining chip in the ongoing free trade agreement negotiations with India. Thus, India needs to tread cautiously.

Even if the EU does not impose trade sanctions on India, it might use the WTO ruling as a bargaining chip in the free trade agreement negotiations with India

The upper caste outreach in a don's release

Nitish Kumar hopes to woo the Rajputs and Bhumihars by setting Anand Mohan free

STATE OF PLAY

Amit Bhelari
amit.bhelari@thehindu.co.in

While don-turned-politician Anand Mohan quietly exited Saharsa jail in the early hours of April 27, his supporters across the entire district celebrated with chants of '*Jail ka tala toot gaya, sher hamara chhut gaya* (The jail lock is broken, our lion is free)'. The former MP and MLA had served over 15 years in jail after being convicted in the case of murder of G. Krishnaiah, the then District Magistrate of Gopalganj in 1994. It was to avenge the killing of a criminal by the police that a mob owing allegiance to Mohan lynched Krishnaiah, a Scheduled Caste IAS officer. The release came about after the Bihar Home Department tweaked the jail manual, lifting a bar on those who had killed a public servant on duty from remission.

Much of the credit for the release is being given to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. As early as January 23, during a function to honour Rajput king Maharana Pratap at Patna's Miller High School, Mr. Kumar had responded to shouts from the audience demanding Mohan's release saying he was already on the job. There is a political imperative behind Mohan, who is known as 'Sher-e-Bihar,' being set free: the upper caste, or more precisely the Rajput, vote.

An attempt to cause a dent

Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections next year, Mr. Kumar's Janata (Dal) United or JD(U) is trying hard to cause a dent in the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s upper caste vote base so as to offset the fact that a chunk of the Extremely Backward Class and Other Backward Class communities are leaning towards the saffron party.

Mohan is a product of the undivided Janata Dal when Mr. Kumar and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad were together. He first became MLA in 1990. Later, he parted ways with Mr. Prasad, who was known as the messiah of the Mandal era, and formed his own political party, the Bihar People's Party. However, he enjoys cordial ties with both the JD(U) and RJD.

JD(U) sources insist it was their party chief who was more eager than RJD leader and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav on facilitating the release. The RJD gave a ticket to Mohan's son Chetan Anand, who is currently an MLA from Sheohar seat. Mohan's wife Lovely Anand, who had earlier represented the Vaishali Lok Sabha seat in 1994, is a member of the RJD too.

Mohan's release is likely to help the JD(U) in a few pockets of the State including Saharsa, Sheohar, Sitamarhi and other regions of Mithilanchal where the Rajputs are in sizeable numbers. Patna-based political analyst Sanjay Kumar calls it a "masterstroke" on the Chief Minister's part, pointing out that the BJP seems confused over the issue: while senior party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi opposed the release, Union Minister Giriraj Singh and MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy welcomed the decision.

A section of Rajputs is already aligned with the ruling alliance due to former Union Minister, the late Raghuvansh Prasad Singh's long association with the RJD; the party's current State unit chief Jagdanand Singh also belongs to the community.

A ripple effect?

Mr. Kumar's 'benevolence' towards a Rajput is also expected to have a ripple effect among the Bhumihars, another upper caste group which already finds good representation within the JD(U) ranks – national party chief Lalan Singh and Finance Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary are examples. "Nitish Kumar has not only targeted the Rajput vote bank among the upper castes but the Bhumihar vote bank as well," says Dr. Sanjay Kumar.

Meanwhile, as news of Mohan's release hit the national headlines and the Supreme Court agreed to hear on May 8 a petition filed by Krishnaiah's wife challenging the Bihar government's decision, Mohan has maintained distance from the media. His son Chetan's wedding is scheduled to be held in Dehradun today. Sources say only close family friends have been invited. The Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister had attended the engagement ceremony of Mr. Chetan on April 24.

The premature release has opened a Pandora's box for the Nitish Kumar government with its ally, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), demanding that prisoners arrested under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act be released as well. However, in Mr. Kumar's book, the gains from Mohan's release outweigh any adverse fallouts.

Communal tensions increase during Ram Navami, reports show

Violent skirmishes between Hindus and Muslims have been increasing over the past decade

DATA POINT

The Hindu Bureau

Ram Navami, the Hindu festival celebrating the birth of Lord Ram, fell on March 30 this year, a week after the onset of the month of Ramadan. There were reports of violence, arson, and vandalism from at least eight States between March 30 and April 2.

While only one instance of violence was reported in each of the years 2012, 2013, and 2014, the number of reported clashes rose considerably between 2016 and 2018. In 2019, there was a steep decrease with only two incidents reported. No clashes occurred in 2020 and 2021 on account of restrictions imposed due to COVID-19. However, in 2022, there were communal clashes of varying intensity reported across five States. The worst clash was reported from Khargone in Madhya Pradesh where at least 20 people, including three policemen, were injured and over 170 arrested. In 2023, clashes were reported across eight States.

Chart 1 shows the total number of clashes reported every year from 2010 to 2023. In 2017, there were nine clashes, while 2018 saw nearly double the number, proving to be the most violent year of the 2010-2020 period. A similar trend was observed in 2022 and 2023 with almost twice as many clashes occurring in 2023 (19) compared to 2022 (10).

Chart 2 shows the locations of the reported clashes over the years, indicating the spread.

Reports of violence were highest in West Bengal, Bihar, and Jharkhand. Several areas in these States have witnessed violence in the last few years. For instance, Howrah in West Bengal saw clashes take place in 2013, 2022, and two separate incidents in 2023. The districts of Nalanda and Munger in Bihar also witnessed violent clashes in 2018 and 2023. In 2018, Bihar reported 11 incidents of clashes, which was the highest a State witnessed in a year in the 2012-2023 period.

Of the 64 clashes analysed since 2012, **Table 3** shows that 27 were triggered by either disputes over the procession route or by stone throwing during the procession. Disputes over procession routes were caused either between members of communities or between the police and members of a community. Inflammatory or controversial songs, slogans, and chants triggered seven of the reported clashes. Each clash had its own sequence of events, often consisting of a combination of two or more of the causes listed above followed by others. For example, in Shibpur in Howrah, West Bengal, where at least 20 people got injured, including three policemen, a provocative speech during a Vishwa Hindu Parishad rally led to stone throwing between the members of the two communities. Thus, for such an event, *The Hindu* considered the incident that led to the inflection point as the cause, which was "inflammatory/controversial slogans and songs."

Disclaimer: *The Hindu* collated the data and information of the clashes from the newspaper's archives and from other major news publications in the country. Regarding the number of injuries, *The Hindu* used either the lowest possible number that was confirmed or a range depending on news reports. Also, it is important to note that not all clashes may have received media coverage. Thus, some clashes may not have been showcased here.

Sources: The Hindu, ANI, India Today, The Indian Express, New Indian Express, Hindustan Times, Times of India, Scroll, The News Minute.

Compiled by Ramesh Chandran K.P., Godhashri S., Gautam Doshi, Sandra Cyriac, Abhinav Chakraborty, Shibu Narayan. Graphics - Gautam Doshi, Godashri S.

Mapping clashes during Ram Navami

The data for the charts and table were collated from reports about the clashes in The Hindu's archives and other major news publications in the country

Security personnel deployed near Rishra railway station after clashes broke out during a Ram Navami procession in Hooghly. PTI

Chart 1 | The chart shows the total number of clashes reported in a year from 2010 to 2023

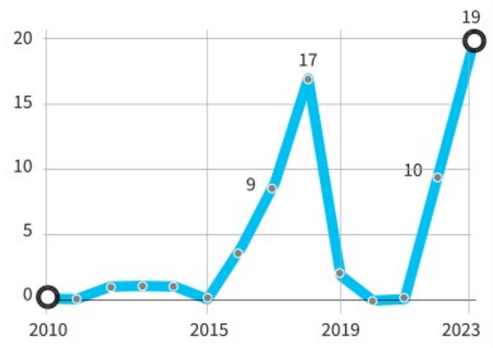


Chart 2 | The chart shows the locations where the reported clashes took place

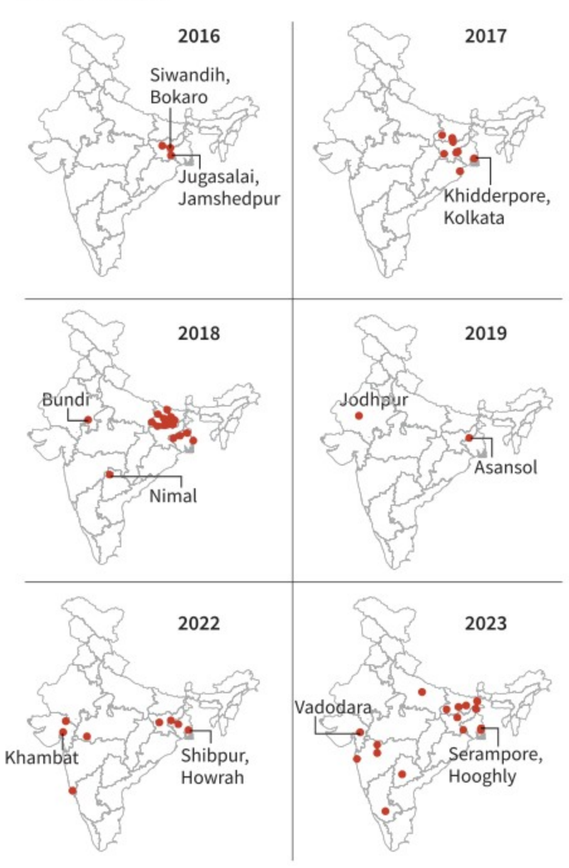


Table 3 | The table lists the triggers for these clashes

Trigger for clash	Incidents
Dispute over route	15
Stone throwing	12
Procession came under attack	7
Not known	7
Inflammatory/controversial slogans and songs	7
Objection to loud music/ the use of loudspeakers	6
Vandalism	6
Altercation	3
Procession with swords attacked the police	1

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 3, 1973

"Tamil Nadu I.T. offices bugged"

New Delhi, May 2: The Minister of State for Finance, Mr. K.R. Ganesh, to-day disclosed in the Rajya Sabha that the telephones of the Income-Tax Commissioner and officers in Tamil Nadu were "bugged." "It is not possible for the Income-Tax officers or the Commissioner of Income-Tax to function in a manner in which he should function with liberty. The whole of the Income-Tax department (Tamil Nadu) is being watched by the State Government." This disclosure came following Mr. M. Kamalanathan's (ADMK) complaint that Mr. Ganesh visited Tamil Nadu too frequently. The member was speaking on the Appropriation Bill. Mr. Ganesh said, "My Commissioner (of Income-Tax) cannot function. Their phones are bugged. They cannot meet. They have to meet out of their office. In the adverse circumstances, the Income-Tax Department is functioning in Madras." Both Mr. S.S. Mariswamy (DMK) and Mr. Mahavir Tyagi (Cong-O) intervened to say that the telephones were with the Central Government. Mr. Mariswamy alleged that the Income-Tax Department was being used to blackmail certain people in Tamil Nadu. "People with whom the Minister is associated are acting as brokers and thugs in the Department." Mr. Tyagi said the Centre must take action if the Minister's allegations against the State Government were correct. He wanted to know if any action was taken by the Centre so far. There was no reply from Mr. Ganesh.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 3, 1923

Mortality returns

Delhi, May 2: The Health Department of the local Municipality has now started issuing belated reports of the daily plague mortality in Delhi. The report for 1st May gives under heads "Fresh cases" and "fresh deaths" 18 and 19 respectively. The total number of deaths from all causes for the same date, according to the report, is 56 but in an explanatory paragraph the Health Officer says "The average daily mortality in the city in normal times is 20. If this is deducted from the daily deaths registered and reported these days, it will give a fairly correct idea of the daily mortality from plague, since there is no other fatal epidemic raging at present."

Pawar steps down as NCP chief, will not contest polls

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Amid speculation that his nephew and senior Nationalist Congress Party leader Ajit Pawar is considering an understanding with BJP, Sharad Pawar, party founder and chief since 1999, on Tuesday announced that he is stepping down from the post and will not contest elections in future.

"After a long period of public life from May 1, 1960, to May 1, 2023, it is necessary to take a step back. After this prolonged political career, one must think about stopping somewhere. One must not be greedy. Hence, I have decided to step down as president of the NCP," the 82-year-old veteran politician said at the launch of the second edition of his political memoirs, *Lok Maze Sangati* ('People Accompany Me').

Mr. Pawar is widely credited as the architect of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) for bringing together the NCP, the Congress and the ideologically opposite Shiv Sena in an unlikely coalition, after the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly election. His decision to step down comes when he was seen as a leader who could bring together Opposition parties of different interests and ideologies, ahead of the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections next year.

The NCP patriarch said it was time for the new generation to guide the party, and recommended that a committee of senior leaders, including his daughter and Baramati MP Supriya Sule, Mr. Ajit Pawar, Jayant Patil, Chhagan Bhujbal and Praful Patel, choose his successor.

SC dismisses Delhi Police appeal against bail to activists

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed an appeal by the Delhi Police against the release of activists Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal and Asif Iqbal Tanha on bail in a case connected to the 2020 Delhi riots.

A Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul observed that the activists have been out on bail for two years now. The Delhi High Court had allowed them bail in June 2021 after a year's incarceration in Tihar Jail. They were accused of offences under the UAPA in connection with the north-east Delhi riots, which broke out after the protests against Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) had turned violent.

On Tuesday, the top court recorded that neither the observations made by the High Court on the UAPA law nor any elaborate discussion on the merits of the case would act as a precedent.

Justice Kaul criticised the tendency among State and defence lawyers to argue bail pleas like they were fighting for conviction or a full-fledged appeal.

Centre plans panel to find alternative to death by hanging

Lawyer Rishi Malhotra filed a PIL plea in the top court seeking to abolish the present practice and replace it with less painful, humane methods

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government apprised the Supreme Court on Tuesday that it is considering the formation of a committee to examine the need for a painless and more dignified alternative to death by hanging.

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Attorney General R. Venkataramani sought time till July to report back to the Supreme Court.

In March, the court had asked the government to provide data which may give a clue to a more acceptable method of executing prisoners other than death by hanging.

Alternative method

The Chief Justice had in that hearing suggested to the government the formation of a committee with experts from the national law universities, professors of law, doctors and scientific persons.

> If you want us to relook death by hanging, we need better data... We want to know the the pain caused, the period of actual death and the availability of resources
> **CJI D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**

The court had indicated to the Centre that it may even direct an alternative method of executing capital punishments if it was proved that there was a more "humane" method of execution which would render death by hanging unconstitutional.

"If you want us to relook death by hanging, we need better data... We want to know the impact of the sentence of death by hanging, the pain caused, the period of actual death and the availability of resources for hanging a person," Chief Justice Chandrachud had observed.

The court was hearing a petition filed by advocate Rishi Malhotra challenging the constitutionality of death by hanging as a mode of execution. Section 354 (5) of the Code of Criminal Procedure mandates that a person sentenced to death shall "be hanged by the neck till he is dead".

'Not inhuman'

Mr. Malhotra said there was a need to evolve a "humane, quick and decent alternative". He termed hanging as "cruel and barbarous" way of executing a prisoner.

In fact, in 2018, the Centre had filed an affidavit supporting death by hanging. It had not found the method of execution "inhuman and cruel" compared to lethal injections.

U.S. panel report on religious freedom biased, says India

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The USCIRF alleged that in 2022, religious freedom conditions in India continued to worsen

India on Tuesday trashed as "biased" and "motivated" a report by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) that alleged "severe violations" of religious freedom in the country.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the Commission continues to regurgitate such comments and India rejects the "misrepresentation of facts" which only serves to "discredit USCIRF itself".

He asked the USCIRF to develop a better understanding of India, its plurality and its democratic ethos.

"The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom continues to regurgitate biased and motivated comments about India, this time in its 2023 annual report," he said.

"We reject such misrepresentation of facts which only serves to discredit USCIRF itself."

"We would urge USCIRF to desist from such efforts and develop a better understanding of India, its plurality, its democratic ethos and its constitutional mechanisms," he said.

In its annual report on religious freedom, the USCIRF asked the U.S. State Department to designate India as a "country of particular concern" on the status of religious freedom along with several other nations. The USCIRF has been making similar recommendations to the State Department since 2020, which have not been accepted. The recommendations are not mandatory for the State Department.

In its India section of the latest report, the USCIRF alleged that in 2022, religious freedom conditions in India continued to worsen. It urged the Biden administration to impose targeted sanctions on Indian government agencies and officials responsible for "severe violations" of religious freedom in the country by freezing their assets.

It also recommended that Congress raise the issue of religious freedom during U.S.-India bilateral meetings and hold hearings on it.

From Page One

Bilkis case convicts playing for time: judge

The case was referred to Justices Joseph and Nagarathna and came up for hearing on March 27. The Bench had issued notice on the same day and directed the government to be ready with the official files concerning the remission.

On April 18, both the Union and Gujarat governments said they may seek a review against the March 27 order in which the court had asked them to be "ready with the files". The government had even hinted that they would claim privilege over the remission records. On Tuesday, the government did a full U-turn, this time saying that it was neither filing a review nor pressing for privilege. At one point, the two judges even offered to hear the case during the summer vacation, in the days ahead of the retirement of Justice Joseph on June 16. But Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for both the Union and the State of Gujarat, refused the suggestion. The court listed the case in July.

Go First flights halted, files for bankruptcy

"The grounding of close to 50% of its A320neo fleet due to the serial failure of Pratt & Whitney's engines, while it continued to incur 100% of its operational costs, has set GO FIRST back by ₹10,800 crore in lost revenues and additional expenses," the airline's statement said.

The current situation was precipitated, the airline maintained, by Pratt and Whitney's refusal to take steps to immediately release 10 leased engines by April 27, 2023 and another 10 engines by December 2023, as per the order of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC). The airline said that, had the engines been made available, it would have returned to full operations by August or September 2023.

Industry insiders also blame reluctance among shareholders to infuse funds to ease the airline's cash crunch. The airline said that promoters have invested ₹3,200 crore over the last three years, bringing the total promoter investment since the airline's inception to ₹6,500 crore.

The DGCA, in its show cause notice to the airline, has given it 24 hours to share what mitigation measures the airline has adopted, as well as to submit its plan of action to resume flights.

Govt. extends date to opt for higher pension

"This has been decided after sympathetically considering the various demands received from employees, employers and their associations," it said.

Ten Central trade unions had recently written a letter to Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav complaining that the requirement of applying online exclusively was discriminatory and prevented many employees who are not familiar with online procedures from exercising their option.

"This was pointed out by members of the Central Board of Trustees several times. Besides, the online system of the EPFO suffers from major connectivity issues and the EPFO itself has been planning to upgrade its IT System. The EPF staff complain of spending hours in front of the screens, before the system becomes responsive," the Central trade union said in the letter.

They also said that the requirement for the proof of higher contribution to be provided by the employee in the online application was meaningless as the PF contribution of both the employee and employer was available with the EPFO. They said such a requirement was designed to discourage and disqualify applications for higher pensions. The unions requested that such a requirement should be scrapped.

No interim relief for Rahul; Gujarat HC to give verdict after June 4

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat High Court on Tuesday reserved its orders on a criminal revision petition filed by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi seeking a stay on his conviction in the "Modi surname" remark case.

The court declined to give interim protection, and said the verdict would be pronounced after the summer vacation. Citing "extreme urgency" as a stay would end Mr. Gandhi's disqualification as MP, his lawyer had sought interim protection.

The High Court will be on vacation from May 5 to June 4.

The court of Justice Hemant Prachchhak observed that it is in the interest and fitness of the case that the matter be decided finally, and refused interim protection at this stage.

The judge directed the trial court to produce original proceedings and records of the case.

On Tuesday, the court heard the arguments from Mitesh Amin, for the State of Gujarat, and senior counsel Nirupam Nanavati, who appeared for BJP MLA Purnesh Modi, the original complainant, who both opposed the prayer for interim relief from Mr. Gandhi's counsel, Abhishek Manu Singhvi.

Mr. Nanavati argued that staying of conviction was a discretionary relief and must be granted in rarest of rare circumstances. Mr. Singhvi held that defamation was not a heinous crime and he, therefore, sought protection for the petitioner.

Rajnath Singh hands over two naval vessels to the Maldivian defence forces

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Continuing India's capacity building assistance in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on the second day of his three-day visit, handed over a Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) and a Landing Craft Assault ship to the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF).

In Sri Lanka, Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari donated AN-32 transport aircraft propellers to Commander Sri Lanka Air Force at Katunayake Air Base.

"India has emerged as a leading defence exporter in recent years. A defence manufacturing ecosystem has been created which has the advantage of abundant technical manpower. We produce world-class equipment to meet not only our own needs, but also for exports," Mr. Singh said at the formal handover ceremony.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his Maldivian counterpart Mariya Ahmed Didi, in Maldives on Monday. ANI

In recent years, India has significantly scaled up assistance towards capacity building and capability enhancement for Indian Ocean littoral states and countries in the IOR.

Mr. Singh called for collaborative efforts to deal with common challenges faced by IOR, including climate change and sustainable exploitation of maritime resources.

On Monday, Mr. Singh held talks with his Maldivian counterpart Mariya Ahmed Didi and Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid.

Central varsity appointments to shift to online portal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched CU-Chayan, a unified faculty recruitment portal for Central Universities.

UGC Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar said the "user-friendly" portal would cater to the needs of all the stakeholders in the teachers' recruitment process.

"The portal will provide a common platform for listing of vacancies, advertisements and jobs across all Central Universities," the UGC Chairman said.

The applicant can also search for jobs using various filters like the name of the university, location, designation, category, subject, type of employment, experience and education level.

UIDAI allows verification of email, phone number

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on Tuesday announced the addition of new facility on its website and mobile app to allow residents to verify their mobile numbers and email IDs seeded with their Aadhaar.

The development comes after the Aadhaar custodian noticed that in some instances, residents were not aware or sure about which of their mobile numbers is linked.

"Hence residents were worried that Aadhaar OTP might be going to some other mobile number. The facility can be availed under 'Verify email/mobile Number' feature on the official website or through mAadhaar App," the UIDAI said in a statement.

Karnataka ranked the most 'innovative' State in manufacturing

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A survey on the degree of innovation among manufacturing firms found that Karnataka, overall, is the most "innovative" State, followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu (DNH&DD), Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.

Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu had the highest share of innovative firms at 46.18%, 39.1% and 31.9%, respectively, with Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand reporting the lowest share of such firms at 12.78%, 13.47% and 13.71%, respectively.

Nearly three-fourths of the 8,000-odd firms surveyed, most of them micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME), neither made any innovative product nor business process innovation during the survey period of financial years 2017-2020. However, nearly 80% of the firms that did reported significant gains such as expanding markets and reducing production costs.

The most frequent "barriers to innovation" were the lack of internal funds, high innovation costs, and lack of financing from external sources. Gujarat and DNH&DD reported the highest frequencies of barriers to innovation.

The findings are part of the National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22, a joint study by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to evaluate the innovation performance of manufacturing firms in the India.

Gangster Goldy Brar among 25 wanted fugitives in Canada

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

Canada-based gangster Satinder Singh Brar, alias Goldy Brar, allegedly involved in the killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, has been named among the country's top 25 wanted fugitives by the Canadian government. The announcement came amid a number of meetings between India and Canada, as both sides have attempted to reset and revive ties in the past few months.

The BOLO (Be On the Lookout) programme in Canada on May 1, announced an update to its list of Canada's 25 most wanted fugitives.

The programme is a Canadian not-for-profit organisation that amplifies police fugitive cases to increase public awareness.

States told to take down hoardings on gambling

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked States to take action against online betting and gambling platforms using outdoor media, such as hoardings and posters, to promote their websites and applications.

"While such advertisements have been largely curbed in mainstream print, electronic and digital media, it has now come to the notice that some betting and gambling platforms have started using outdoor media such as hoardings, posters, auto rickshaw branding, etc. to promote their websites/apps in India," said a letter written by Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra, sent to States and Union Territories on Tuesday.

The Ministry had earlier directed not to publish such advertisements.

APPEAL

Mast. Thirukumaran, 3 years old, needs your support in bringing a lasting change and a new life. He suffers from Pure Red Cell Aplasia and has to undergo Blood Transfusion & Iron Chelation Therapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & research Centre, Madurai. He urgently needs **Rs. 7,00,000/-** for his treatment. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D./NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c.No:60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT **(Please do not mention patient name on the cheque).**

All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978027. E Mail Id: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.** Website:www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

231 more Indians evacuated from Sudan

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

As many as 231 Indians, including 208 Gujarat residents, who were evacuated from strife-torn African nation Sudan under the Centre's 'Operation Kaveri', landed at Ahmedabad airport on May 2, said a State government official.

Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi, who handles Non-Resident Gujarati (NRG) division of the State Government, welcomed these Indians at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport upon their arrival here from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia on a special flight, said the official. These 231 Indians included 13 from Punjab and 10 from Rajasthan, the official said.

Under 'Operation Kaveri', India has been taking its citizens by bus from Khartoum and other troubled areas to Port Sudan from where they are being taken to the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah on Indian Air Force's heavy-lift transport aircraft and Indian Navy's ships.

China, Russia, Pak. Ministers to attend SCO meet in Goa

Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to attend SCO summit in July and G-20 meeting in September; Putin, Shehbaz and leaders of four Central Asian nations are also expected in July

Ananth Krishnan
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The Foreign Ministers of China and Russia will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers' meeting in Goa on Thursday and Friday, on key visits expected to lay the groundwork for Presidents Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin to travel to India in early July.

China's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday confirmed Foreign Minister Qin Gang's trip to Goa, which comes exactly two months after he travelled to New Delhi for the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting, when he also had bilateral talks with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on the sidelines.

Last week, the Russian Foreign Ministry had announced that Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov would also attend the SCO FM's meet, which will prepare the way for the SCO summit, scheduled for July 3 and 4. According to the release issued in Moscow, the Ministers would discuss "drafts of the relevant documents and decisions" of the SCO grouping and have an exchange of views on "topical issues of the international and regional agenda".

S. Jaishankar meeting his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang before the start of the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in March. REUTERS

The Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing said in a statement on Tuesday, "State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang will exchange views with other SCO member-states' Foreign Ministers on the international and regional situation and SCO cooperation in various fields, among other topics, to make full preparation for this year's SCO summit."

All eyes on Bilawal

While Mr. Jaishankar had met with both Mr. Qin and Mr. Lavrov during the G-20 Foreign Minister's meeting in March this year, all eyes will be on his interactions with Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto, who is also expected to arrive in Goa on Thursday. This is the first visit by a Pakistani Foreign Minister to India since 2011, though officials in both New Delhi and Islamabad have said the purpose of the visit is to attend the multilateral meeting of the SCO, and neither side has indicated they will hold bilateral talks.

Mr. Xi is likely to attend the July SCO summit in person, as well as also travel to India for the G-20 in September. Mr. Putin, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Central Asian leaders are expected to attend the July summit.

The Eurasian security grouping, led by China and Russia, includes four Central Asian nations – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – while India and Pakistan were added to the group in 2017. Iran and Belarus are slated to be the next additions.

Cong. wants PM's apology over Lord Hanuman remark

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "insulting" Lord Hanuman by comparing him with the Bajrang Dal and asked Mr. Modi to apologise for hurting religious sentiments.

Hours after the Congress manifesto for the Karnataka Assembly election promised to ban the Bajrang Dal and the Popular Front of India, Mr. Modi claimed that the Congress wants to lock up all those who want to chant *"Jai Bajrangbali"*.

"At a time when I have come to pay my respects in Lord Hanuman's land, the Congress party in its manifesto has decided to lock up *Bajrangbali*. Earlier, they had locked up Lord Ram and now they have resolved to lock all those who chant *Jai Bajrangbali*," Mr. Modi said at an election rally in Hospet.

Hitting back at the Prime Minister, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said Mr. Modi's comment had hurt the religious sentiments of crores of Lord Hanuman's devotees like him.

Pawan Khera

"The Prime Minister is insulting our faith in Lord Hanuman. He should apologise to the country as he has hurt our religious sentiments. No one has given the Prime Minister the right to insult Bajrangbali," he told reporters.

Mr. Khera said if Mr. Modi didn't know the subversive activities of the Bajrang Dal in States such as Madhya Pradesh, then he should check with BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia.

"In 2017, he [Mr. Scindia] had said that they [Bajrang Dal] are an ISI-certified party. Pick up the phone and ask Mr. Scindia about his views on Bajrang Dal," he said.

VHP attacks Cong. over its poll promise in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Responding to the Congress manifesto for the Karnataka Assembly election that promises to impose a ban on the Bajrang Dal, an affiliate of RSS, and the Popular Front of India (PFI) if it wins the poll, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad on Tuesday staged a protest outside the Congress headquarters in New Delhi.

The members of the right-wing organisation lashed out at the Opposition party and termed its manifesto "a deliberate attempt to disturb the peace within the country".

"The Congress had compared a patriotic organisation like the Bajrang Dal with a banned, terrorist and anti-national organisation PFI [which] is very unfortunate. People of the country will not accept it. The Bajrang Dal accepts this challenge and will answer it through all democratic ways," Surendra Jain, international general secretary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, said in a statement.

AAP MP denies being named in chargesheet

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

AAP leader and Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha on Tuesday said news articles claiming that he has been named as an accused in a chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) are "factually incorrect" and appear to be part of a "malicious propaganda" to harm his reputation.

"I have not been named as an accused or a suspect by the ED," he said, warning of legal action against media outlets, which said he was an accused.

Mr. Chadha's statement comes after the supplementary chargesheet filed by the ED in the Delhi excise policy case in which the name of "Raghav Chaddha" has been mentioned as part of a witness statement, alleging that he was present during a meeting at the residence of former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia. The chargesheet does not mention his name as an accused or suspect.

Nine years after ban, coal mining to resume in Meghalaya, says CM Sangma

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Coal mining in Meghalaya, banned since April 2014, is likely to be resumed legally by July. At an election rally on May 1, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said the Centre had approved mining leases for four persons, thus paving the way for scientific mining in the State.

An April 24 letter from the Ministry of Coal to the Secretary of Meghalaya's Mining and Geology department said mining leases had been approved for Nehlang Lyngdoh, Maksing Sibren Nongbri, Thomas Nongtdu, and Wenni Diengngan in the Khliehriat, Kalagaw, Byndihati and Nongstoin coal blocks.

"The National People's Party-led government has been working tirelessly to open up mining in our State. We filed a case in 2019 after which the Supreme Court lifted the ban on mining by the National Green Tribunal (NGT)," Mr. Sangma said during his party's rally in the State's Sohiong constituency.

The election to the Sohiong Assembly seat was postponed after the death of the United Democratic Party candidate H.D.R. Lyngdoh ahead of the February 27 poll.

Six candidates, including the NPP's Samlin Malngiang, are in the fray for the election on May 10.

"Our government is now processing the papers for scientific mining to start within 60 days," the Chief Minister said.

Ban on mining

Despite the ban on rat-hole coal mining, the fossil fuel has been extracted and transported illegally for years in Meghalaya.

More than a fortnight ago, the High Court of Meghalaya had declined to exonerate the State government from complicity in the export of illegally mined coal to Bangladesh.

CID letter is tactic to silence me: Iltija Mufti

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Iltija Mufti, daughter of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, on Tuesday said she was being "intimidated" by the police for putting up a fight in the High Court to get her passport. Earlier, she was granted a country-specific passport only.

Ms. Mufti alleged that the Jammu and Kashmir Police's CID sent her a letter recently over the statements she made about "being pressured to withdraw her court petition". The CID, in a formal communication to Ms. Mufti, said it wanted to "find out the veracity of her statements and probe the allegations so as to meet the principles of natural justice".

"I will be happy to join an inquiry into why rogue senior officers are abusing their powers to lay off innocent civilians from their jobs, delay promotions under the pretext of verification," Ms. Mufti said.

Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No.C.C.E.K.C., Keonjhar No. 02 / 2023-24
email : ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No.1950, dt.27.04.2023

1. No of the work	:- 2 number Road Works
2. Estimated cost	:- Rs.943.74 Lakhs to Rs.998.22 Lakhs
3. Class of Contractor	:- "A" Class & "Special" Class.
4. Period of completion	:- 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:- From 11.30 Hours of 06.05.2023 to 16.00 Hours of 22.05.2023.
6. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:-16.00 Hours of 22.05.2023
7. Date of opening of Bid from Portal	:-11.30 Hours on 23.05.2023
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in"
B-137: Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar.
OIPR-34033/11/0007/2324

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)
ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

कार्य का शीर्षक तथा ई-निविदा सूचना सं. / Title of work & E-Tender Notice No.	पी.ए.सी./P.A.C.
1. आरएफएफ, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में क्रय भवन का निर्माण (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Construction of Purchase Building at RFF, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works) **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/04/2023-24 Dt. 02.05.2023**	रु./Rs. 653.17 लाख/Lakhs
डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading: दिनांक 03.05.2023, 10:00 बजे/hrs से/to दिनांक 16.05.2023, 23:00 बजे/hrs	

योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। / Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in.
Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक / Group Director, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / CMG, VSSC

योजना तथा वास्तुकला विद्यालय, विजयवाडा
School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada
An Institute of National Importance, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India
Survey No.4/4, ITI Road, Vijayawada – 520 008, AP., India.
No. 1.1/SPAV/Acad/PhD/Admn/2023-24 02nd May, 2023
EXTENSION OF DATES FOR ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL (FULL TIME & PART TIME) PROGRAMMES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24
In supersession of earlier notices uploaded on the institute website, the Competent Authority has extended the last date of receipt of applications and subsequent dates of admission process for the Doctoral Programmes for the Academic Year 2023-24. All other aspects of the admission process as notified earlier, shall remain same. For revised dates of admission process, please visit **https://spav.ac.in/spavadmissions.html**
Sd/- Registrar

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
e-TENDER NOTICE
The TSTransco (Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited) invites online Bids under e-procurement for supply of 132KV Transformer Control & Relay Panels against Tender Specification No. TSPMM21- 19 /2023. Tenderers can have further details and download the tender schedule from e-procurement market place i.e., **www.tender.telangana.gov.in.** Contact Nos.: CHIEF ENGINEER / P&MM, TSTransco, **Phone: 040-23396000 (Extn.: 3487/3583/3460/3332), 040-23303736, www.tstransco.in**
Sd/-
R.O.No.06/23 Chief Engineer/P&MM

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P. LIMITED
Corporate office: H.No.19-13-65/A, Srinivasapuram, Tiruchanoor Road, Tirupati-517503
Tender Notice (e-procurement)
Bids through e-procurement are invited from the eligible bidders for (1) Procurement of VCBs, Meters, Metering Sets, CTs, PTs, AB Switches, Line Materials, Conductors, Cables, Stay wire, PTRs, DTRs, Winding wires, Transformer oil, Battery Chargers, LAS and Hardwares etc & (2) Construction of compound wall at new SPM Shed, Chittoor of Tirupati Circle. For further details: **www.apeprocurement.gov.in**
CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER/P&MM & CIVIL

कार्यालय श्री सांवलियाजी मन्दिर मण्डल
मण्डफिया, जिला-चित्तौड़गढ़, (राज.)
क्रमांक/लेखा/श्रीसांमंम/2023-24/217 दिनांक- 01.05.2023
संशोधित ई-निविदा सूचना 2023-24/04
श्री सांवलियाजी मन्दिर मण्डल, मण्डफिया द्वारा आमंत्रित देवकी सदन निर्माण कार्य की निविदाएं उपलब्ध होने एवं ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने की निर्धारित अंतिम दिनांक 01.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे में संशोधन करते हुए दिनांक 11.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक बढ़ाई जाती हैं। तथा पोस्ट क्वालिफिकेशन विड दिनांक 12.05.2023 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक मंदिर मण्डल के चित्तौड़गढ़ कलेक्ट्रेट परिसर कमरा नं. 04 में स्थित कार्यालय में ऑनलाईन खोली जावेगी।
NIB No.- SMM2324A0004 मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, श्री सांवलियाजी मन्दिर मण्डल

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD, DIVISION BHILWARA
No.405 Date:- 24-04-2023
NIB CODE : PWD2324A0245
Notice Short Time Inviting Bid 02/2023-24
Bids for Road works are invited form interested bidders upto 6.00 PM Dated 08.05.2023 (Monday). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in., http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. The approximate values of the procurement is Rs. 1069.38 Lacs, (Total of 11 Bid)
UBN Code:- PWD2324WSOB01049, PWD2324WSOB01051, PWD2324WSOB01052, PWD2324WSOB01053, PWD2324WSOB01054, PWD2324WSOB01055, PWD2324WSOB01057, PWD2324WSOB01058, PWD2324WSOB01059, PWD2324WSOB01060, PWD2324WSOB01061
(Narendra Choudhary)
Executive Engineer
PWD Division Bhilwara
DIPR/C/6190 Mob. No.99835-29510

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
VIDYUTH SOUDHA :: VIJAYAWADA
Tender Notice No.613518
Supply of "Hot Intermediate End Heating Elements for Regenerative Air preheater" to RTPP. Bid document download start Date & Time: **04-05-2023, 3.38 PM.** Bid submission closing Date & Time: **05-06-2023, 3.40 AM.** For further details visit website: **www.apeprocurement.gov.in**
DIPR 2057PP/CL, Dt: 02-05-2023

Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation
Kaushal Bhawan, EMI Campus, J-8A, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur-302004
Expression of Interest (EoI)
Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from eligible institutions/organizations/agencies to undertake skill training programme under following state funded schemes -
1. SAKSHM
2. SAMARTH
Eligible entities fulfilling the criteria may submit their application online as per the prescribed format available on RSLDC website - **www.livelihoods.rajasthan.gov.in**. The last date of submission of EoI is 10/05/2023 by 18.00 Hours.
Raj.Samwad/C/23/1633 Managing Director, RSLDC

DEENDAYAL PORT AUTHORITY
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
DESIGN DIVISION
Request for Qualification
Tender No.CE/15
Global Invitation for Qualification for "DEVELOPMENT OF OIL JETTY 09, TO HANDLE ALL TYPES OF LIQUID CARGO, AT OLD KANDLA, ON BOT BASIS, UNDER PPP MODE", for a concession period of thirty (30) years.
Deendayal Port Authority Invites Applications from Interested parties (the "Applicants") in accordance with the *Request for Qualification (RFQ)* Document in order to pre-qualify Applicants who can subsequently bid for the Project as per *Request for Proposal (RFP)*. Estimated Cost of the Project is INR.122.45 Crores.
The RFQ Document of the proposed Project may be obtained from the office of the Chief Engineer, Deendayal Port Authority, at Gandhidham, on submission of a demand draft / Online transfer (non-refundable) of INR.11,800/- [Rs.10,000/- + Rs.1800/- towards GST]** (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) (plus INR.200/- for dispatch by courier/speed post) for RFQ document, for domestic as well as foreign applicants to be issued by any scheduled bank, drawn in favour of Financial Adviser & Chief Accounts Officer (FA&CAO), Deendayal Port Authority, payable at Gandhidham.
The RFQ Document for the proposed project can be downloaded from website *http://www.deendayalport.gov.in*
The schedule of different activities till submission of the applications is as under:

1	Sale of RFQ Document	05/05/2023 to 21/06/2023
2	Last date of receiving queries regarding RFQ	29/05/2023
3	Pre-Application Conference	05/06/2023
4	Last date of submission of Applications i.e. Application Due Date	22/06/2023 upto 11:00 Hrs.

** While purchasing the RFQ document, through D.D. or Online transfer, the applicants are required to submit their GST Registration Number invariably.
Chief Engineer
Deendayal Port Authority
FAX:+91-2836-220050 Tele:+91-2836-233192

Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd.
(A Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking)
Nigam Bhavan, 1st floor, sector-16
Gandhinagar-382016
TENDER NOTICE
The tender is invited by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat (TCGL), for

Sr. No.	Description	Amount
1	Appointment of Agency for SITC & Operations and Maintenance for 5 (five) years of "Permanent Illuminations works towards Gabbar Circle to Gabbar Gate at Ambaji, Gujarat.	Rs.7,80,46,008/- + GST
2	Appointment of Agency for SITC & Operations and Maintenance for 5 (five) years of "Permanent Illuminations works at 51 Shaktipith Parikrama Path and Gabbar Hill at Ambaji, Gujarat	Rs.9,13,81,353/- + GST

The interested bidders/agencies may download the tender document form the website: **www.nprocure.com** from 04/05/2023 onward Last dates of submission on online: 25/05/2023 up to 3:00 PM. Tender may also be referred on **www.gujarattourism.com**.
Managing Director of TCGL reserves the right to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
Managing Director

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-प्रथम उदयपुर
क्रमांक : ACE/NIT/2023-24/D-63 दिनांक : 24.04.2023
निविदा संशोधन सूचना - 1
(निविदा सूचना संख्या -18/2022-23)
इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या-18/2022-23 दिनांक 27.03.2023 में समस्त निविदाओं की दिनांक में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है। संवेदकों से निवेदन है कि तदनुसार निविदाओं में भाग लेवें।

विवरण	पूर्व प्रकाशित दिनांक	संशोधित दिनांक
ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने की अन्तिम तारीख	25 अप्रेल, 2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक	10 मई, 2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाइन निविदा खोलने की तारीख	26 अप्रेल, 2023 सायं 4.00 बजे तक	11 मई, 2023, सायं 4.00 बजे तक

निविदा में वर्णित अन्य सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेगी। **NIB - PWD2223A4960**
UBN No. :—
PWD2223WLOB20024, PWD2223WLOB20025, PWD2223WLOB20026, PWD2223WLOB20027, PWD2223WLOB20028, PWD2223WLOB20030, PWD2223WLOB20032, PWD2223WLOB20034, PWD2223WLOB20036, PWD2223WLOB20037, PWD2223WSOB20038, PWD2223WSOB20039
(अशोक कुमार शर्मा) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
DIPR/C/6052/23 सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग-प्रथम उदयपुर

कार्यालय श्री सांवलियाजी मन्दिर मण्डल
मण्डफिया, जिला-चित्तौड़गढ़, (राज.)
क्रमांक/लेखा/श्रीसांमंम/2023-24/221 दिनांक- 01.05.2023
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या - 07/2023-24
श्री सांवलियाजी मंदिर मण्डल, मण्डफिया द्वारा सॉलिड वेस्ट मेनेजमेंट प्लान्ट निर्माण, किचन शेड निर्माण, व सेल्फ सपोर्टेड शेड निर्माण (कुल 03 कार्यों) हेतु उपयुक्त विभाग व श्रेणी में पंजिकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रि या के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र व सम्बन्धित विवरण व अन्य शर्तें इन्टरनेट वेबसाईट www. eproc.rajasthan.gov.in तथा www. sppp.raj.nic.in पर उपलब्ध हैं। ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र www. eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर दिनांक 03.05.2023 को प्रातः 09:00 बजे से उपलब्ध होकर दिनांक 12.05.2023 सायं 06:00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन जमा किये जा सकते हैं। निविदाओं का निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि व प्रोसेसिंग फीस श्री सांवलियाजी मंदिर मण्डल के बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा, शाखा-मण्डफिया के खाता मांक 52430100000001 IFSC-BARB0MANDPH में RTGS/NEFT/IMPS/UPI के माध्यम से जमा करवानी होगी। ऑनलाईन प्राप्त निविदाओं की तकनिकी/पोर्टेशियल निविदाएं दिनांक 13.05.2023 को दोपहर 12:00 बजे मंदिर मण्डल के चित्तौड़गढ़ कलेक्ट्रेट परिसर कमरा नं0 04 में स्थित कार्यालय में ऑनलाईन खोली जावेगी।
NIB No.- SMM2324A0007 मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, श्री सॉंवलियाजी मंदिर मण्डल

A lucky start for Congress chief's campaign

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge started his election campaign for his party from Chikkamagaluru district this time, saying that the place was "lucky" for the party. He was referring to the victory of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from here in 1978. She made her political comeback post-Emergency with the Lok Sabha bypoll win in Chikkamagaluru in 1978. For decades, the district had been a strong bastion of the party.

However, the scene changed after 2000, when the BJP started a campaign for declaring Bababudangiri, a syncretic shrine atop a hillock near here, an exclusively Hindu place of worship. Party leaders C.T. Ravi and Jeevaraj, who actively participated in protests demanding the appointment of a Hindu priest, got elected to the Assembly three times consecutively.

Mallikarjun Kharge

Milking votes

The Amul vs Nandini row has agitated local milk producers in Karnataka. The problem has snowballed into a political issue, as the State goes to the polls in less than 10 days. A look at the top five milk-producing districts of Karnataka where the milk row may have a political impact

(in '000' tonnes)

■ If the dairy farmers' anger reflects in the votes, the impact will be more pronounced in Belagavi, Tumkur, Hassan, Mysuru and Mandya, the top five milk-producing districts.

■ In December 2022, Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke of the need for cooperation between Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) and Amul, to ensure the growth of the dairy industry in India.

■ The Opposition interpreted this as an effort to merge KMF with Amul, weakening the local dairy cooperative, Nandini

Mid-week poll to dissuade long weekend plans

Karnataka's polling day this time is in the middle of the week, on Wednesday. The reason for this was to ensure that people do not treat it like an extended holiday. The CEC said had it been a Monday, it could have been combined with the weekend, and had it been Tuesday, one could have gone out by taking a day off.

"The Bajrang Dal's activists are devotees of Hanuman. The Congress is saying that it will ban them

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
Chief Minister

Cong. takes a leaf out of Rajasthan Bill for gig workers

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Taking a leaf out of the playbook of the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in Rajasthan, the party, in its manifesto for the Karnataka Assembly election, has promised a Gig Workers' Welfare Board.

This, party insiders say, is one of the first legislative interventions to come out of the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra that culminated on January 30.

As per a NITI Aayog report, released in June last year, there were 77 lakh gig workers in 2020-21 and these figures were expected to go up to 2.35 crore by 2029-30.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had announced in his Budget address in February the State government's intention to bring the Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023. The Bill envisages a Gig Workers' Welfare Board that will design welfare policies and also act as a grievance portal for workers who are hired on piecerate basis.

The Bill is currently in the drafting stage and is expected to be tabled in the Assembly before the model code of conduct kicks in for the Assembly election scheduled to be held later this year.

Praveen Chakravarty, chairman of Congress's Data Analytics Department, said the Rajasthan Bill and the Karnataka promise were important in the current economic situation. "At a time when the country's GDP is not resulting in formal jobs, gig employment becomes crucial. And it is important to ensure that social security protection is extended to them [workers] during volatile conditions," he said.

Political churn, quota concerns keep the tempo up in Kittur Karnataka

With several high-profile candidates, the changed equations are likely to affect ruling party more; the electoral campaign has been largely centred on caste, reservation and identity politics

NEWS ANALYSIS

Girish Pattanashetti
Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
HUBBALLI/BELAGAVI

BJP stronghold

A look at the seats won by parties in the Kittur and Central Karnataka regions in the 2018 Karnataka election and the bypolls that followed

KITTUR KARNATAKA

Party	2018	After 2019 bypolls	After 2021 bypolls
BJP	30	35	36
Cong	17	11	11
JDS	2	2	1
KPJP	1	0	0

CENTRAL KARNATAKA

Party	2018
BJP	11
Cong	3

■ The Central Karnataka region consists of Davanagere and Chitradurga districts

■ In 2018, the BJP won 60% of the seats in this region and increased its tally further in the subsequent bypolls

■ The Kittur Karnataka region is expected to have the "Shettar-Savadi impact" in the coming election

■ The Kittur Karnataka region consists of Dharwad, Haveri, Gadag, Belagavi, Vijayapura and Bagalkot districts

In Kittur Karnataka, the most-debated topic is the defection of Jagadish Shettar and Laxman Savadi

Much political action has taken place in the Kittur Karnataka, earlier known as Bombay Karnataka, and central Karnataka regions this election season, as old friends have parted ways, arch-rivals have united and all parties have faced rebellion. The campaign has been largely centred on caste, reservation and identity politics, with issues of deeper concern to people's livelihoods – such as long-pending irrigation projects – slipping under the radar.

In Kittur Karnataka, the most debated development is the defection of senior Lingayat leaders Jagadish Shettar and Laxman Savadi to the Congress, after they were denied ticket by the ruling BJP. Though the agitation demanding separate and enhanced reservation for Panchamasalis, a prominent Lingayat sub-sect, had created a flutter in the run-up to the election, the last-minute announcement of enhanced reservation for all Lingayats under the 2D category of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) quota seems to have placated at least a section of the community, if not all.

These two issues are likely to be the biggest talking points in Bagalkot and Vijayapura districts, where there is a significant influence of some of the Lingayat sub-castes such as the Banajiga, Panchamasali and Ganiga groups. The BJP has been chanting a mantra of "party first, nation first" in a damage-control exercise to mitigate the impact of the rebellion.

Mr. Savadi is said to have influence in 10 to 12 constituencies in Kittur Karnataka and Kalyan Karnataka, from Belagavi to Bidar. Similarly, Mr. Shettar's rebellion is expected to have some impact, which is evident in the BJP employing all its leaders, especially community strongman and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, for damage control.

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah's decision to shift from Badami, the north Karnataka constituency which he had won last time, to Varuna in south Karnataka, is likely to have an impact on the Congress.

The Kittur Karnataka region has several high-profile candidates, including State Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. Ministers and former Ministers such as Murugesh Niranni, Govind Karjol, Ramesh Jarkiholi, C.C. Patil, B.C. Patil, M.B. Patil, and H.K. Patil are all contesting from the region, along with Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, a leader known for his communal remarks.

Strong comeback

In the 2018 election, the BJP had made a strong comeback here, after having conceded many seats to the Congress in 2013.

However, changed political equations, rebellions and leaders switching parties are likely to affect the ruling party more than the Opposition. Though the Chief Minister seems to be in a strong wicket in his home turf of Shiggaon, he is yet to make any significant impact as a prominent Lingayat leader in the entire region.

The Janata Dal(S), which holds only one seat in the region, is once again making what appears like a futile attempt to regain lost ground. New-entrant Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is also making an attempt to impress the voters of the region with its Delhi and Punjab governance models. The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has several candidates in the region, which may prove to be a cause of concern for the Congress in a few constituencies.

In the central Karnataka districts of Davanagere and Chitradurga, where the BJP holds a majority of the seats, there are ample indications that it may not be easy for the party to repeat its 2018 performance. It is hoping to reap the benefit of the Centre's declaration of the Upper Bhadra project as a national project.

These two districts have some senior contestants. Shamanur Shivashankarappa of the Congress, who is 92, is contesting the Davanagere South seat, while the BJP's G.H. Thippa Reddy and N. Thippeswamy, both 75, are contesting Chitradurga and Molakalmuru, respectively.

Incumbent MLA Madal Virupakshappa, who caused a huge embarrassment to the ruling party after being caught by the Lokayukta in a graft case with a large stash of cash, has been denied ticket, resulting in his son contesting as an Independent candidate from Channagiri in Davanagere district.

Of the 14 seats in these two districts, the BJP had won 11 seats and the Congress had won three in the 2018 election.

'The BJP disrespected people who elected me'

He alleges that the party wants a govt. without dependence on Lingayats, and asserts that he will be in active politics for another 10 years

INTERVIEW

Jagadish Shettar

Girish Pattanashetti

Former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar has caught the attention of the nation by leaving the BJP after being denied ticket. The senior Lingayat leader's decision to quit the party and join the Congress may have an impact on the political equations in the Kittur Karnataka region. He explains the reasons for his decision. Excerpts:

You have long been associated with the BJP. Why the shift to the Congress?

I have been working for strengthening the party in the State, particularly in the north Karnataka region, for the past 30 years. I have not only strengthened the party but also won the elections six times in a row with a considerable margin of about 25,000 votes. I wanted to contest the election again and had begun preparations. But at the last moment, the party's Karnataka in-charge called me over telephone to convey that I have been denied ticket. He told me to issue a press release as per the draft given by them saying that I am retiring from active politics. I asked them the reason for the party's decision.

I sought to know whether it was because of my age or any negative survey report, any scam or any corruption or criminal charges. But there was no answer. The party's national president, J.P. Nadda, also did not give answers to my questions. They not only hurt my self-respect but also showed disrespect to the people who elected me six times in a row. So I decided to quit. This fight is for my self-respect.

Do you mean to say you were ready to quit had they followed due process before asking you to quit?

Yes, I would have readily agreed if they had treated me with respect and conveyed to me the decision of the party in advance. They say party is first and individuals come next. But in the process of issuing tickets, one individual's choice, that is, party's national organising secretary B.L. Santosh's [choice], came first and not that of the party. Mr. Santosh's intention was to get party ticket to his 'disciple' Mahesh Tenginakai and he succeeded in getting it done, keeping the high command in the dark.

Does Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai see you as contender for the CM's post? Was that the reason for the denial of ticket to you?

Certainly, there are many aspirants for the CM's post, including Mr. Bommai, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, Mr. Santosh himself, and others. And as I am the senior-most Lingayat leader after former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, they saw me as a potential threat. In fact, I told them that I will give it in writing on bond paper that I will not aspire for the post but work as an MLA. However, it was also not considered.

What will happen to your association with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) after shifting to the Congress?

I have been associated with RSS for long. But after joining Congress, my association with RSS as an organisation will discontinue. However, my personal relation with RSS leaders will continue.

There is an allegation that the Congress ill-treats Lingayat leaders and the same will happen to you.

I don't agree. Congress has fielded close to 50 Lingayat leaders. During the Congress government, leaders like M.B. Patil were given important portfolios. In fact, the hidden agenda of BJP is to form a government without any dependence on Lingayats. This is the thinking that is being nourished in BJP.

What will be the impact of your quitting BJP?

My decision to quit the BJP will affect the party in at least 20-22 seats. In several districts, already Lingayat leaders have followed my path to join the Congress.

Is it a do or die situation for you in the present election?

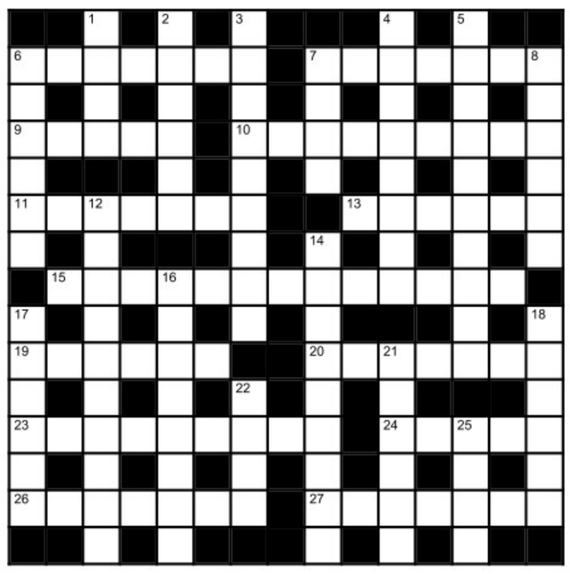
I don't think it is a do or die situation. I will be in active politics for another 10 years.

TH CROSSWORD + 13855

(set by WrdPlougher)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

6 Decides to retreat, abducting a gutless gendarme in front of Nazi police (7)
7 Dreamy seductress from third-world country chasing success, exempt from tax (7)
9 Reveal bad pun about Indonesia (5)
10 Negotiate (initially indifferent about rent) even... (9)
11 ... harsher tenancy regulations on peasants, at first returning hectares upfront for nominal sum (7)
13 Beautiful Greek buildings (not astonishing) essentially following architect's principle (6)
15 Helping to break even oaths, promising lovers from the heart, chasing females inside - appalling to see in cricket club (4-9)
19 Floating on a plank? (6)
20 Wine, no doubt, starting to ferment inside, extremely easy to turn into water (7)
23 Non-regular actor, one boring dry leading man (9)
24 Not at scene of crime, perhaps bailed out one missing journalist (5)
26 Nobleman barely smart, lacking shame, somehow squeamish (7)
27 Runs (actively, regularly) nearby school (7)

Down

1 Tycoon beginning to trade stocks and essentially sharing (4)
2 One tenting temporarily in beaches mainly & missing sand (6)
3 "Eat quickly! Cut-up headless fish no longer fresh!" (6,3)
4 Authorise heads of COVID committee to enter ward, rejecting outsiders, ahead of rising wave (8)
5 Short of time, desperately renovates U.P., displaying bright lights up high (10)
6 Try tackling a universal champion - Ronaldinho, perhaps (6)
7 Eats bananas to fill one's stomach (4)
8 Opposed state's by-election to begin with (6)
12 Primarily not agile, pulling super hero uniform finally over cape (10)
14 Spooner's defeat bound to be a way of saying hello? (9)
16 Stop time in America (8)
17 Bits of woven American molluscoid pearls, useful money (6)
18 Represent precisely sharp foci of microscopy conclusively, perhaps (6)
21 Bay filled with remora, primarily twice the prey (6)
22 One's bizarre skills (4)
25 Nearly the best impression (4)

SUDOKU

4		8		9				1
	1				7		5	
				1			4	6
			5			7	8	
			1		9			
	6	2			4			
5	2			6				
	3		2				1	
9				5		2		7

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS5787 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

A	B	I	N	I	T	I	O		U	T	E	R	U	S
	L		A		O		L		N		M		N	
R	E	T	I	N	A			D	E	A	D	B	O	D	Y
	M		A		D		M		N		R		R	
H	I	N	D	U	S	T	A	N	I		O	M	E	N
	S				T		I				I		S	
R	H	O	M	B	O	I	D		O	L	D	E	S	T
			O		O				B		E			
S	T	R	O	L	L		D	I	S	T	R	E	S	S
	E		N				A		C				H	
A	S	I	S		O	N	Y	O	U	R	T	O	E	S
	T		H		C		T		R		E		L	
B	A	N	I	S	T	E	R		E	M	A	I	L	S
	T		N		E		I		S		S		A	
D	E	S	E	R	T		P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	8	5	7	1	9	4	3	6
1	9	6	4	3	8	7	5	2
3	7	4	5	6	2	9	1	8
8	5	2	1	7	4	3	6	9
7	1	3	8	9	6	5	2	4
4	6	9	3	2	5	1	8	7
9	4	8	6	5	3	2	7	1
5	2	1	9	8	7	6	4	3
6	3	7	2	4	1	8	9	5

FAITH

Periyazhvar to Ramanuja

One of the most appealing of Krishna's leelas is the episode of His being tied by Yasoda to a mortar, said V.S. Karunakarachariar, in a discourse. Narada had cursed the sons of Kubera – Nalakubera and Manigriva, when he found them consuming liquor on the banks of the Akasa Ganga river. He said they would be born as marudhu trees (*Terminalia Arjuna*) in Nandagopa's garden. He said Krishna would be tied to a mortar and when the rope that connected Him to the mortar touched them, they would be freed from the curse.

So, the two cursed Yakshas took birth as trees in Nandagopa's garden. Eventually, Krishna was born, stole butter and was tied by Yasoda to a mortar. As foretold by Narada, Krishna dragged the mortar and when the rope tethering Him to the mortar touched the trees, the Yakshas were released from the curse.

But another occurrence took place too. Krishna dragged the mortar, got it stuck between the trees, and pulled the mortar, bringing down the trees. The reason was that two asuras had taken shelter in the trees, and He had to kill them. This part about asuras sheltering in the trees is not to be found in any Sanskrit text. But we find Periyazhvar referring to the trees as "fake trees," indicating the presence of the asuras in them. Later, Ramanujacharya in his Gita Bhashya, gave an elaborate introduction to the exploits of Krishna, wherein he mentioned the trees among the villains punished by Krishna. Thus Ramanuja picked up Periyazhvar's idea and included it in his commentary.

NAIROBI

Riot police fire tear gas in Kenya as Opposition stages new protests

AFP

Kenyan riot police fired tear gas on Opposition MPs during a new round of anti-government protests over a cost-of-living crisis and last year's disputed election. Tear gas canisters were launched at members of Opposition leader Raila Odinga's Azimio la Umoja (One Kenya) coalition near President William Ruto's office in Nairobi. AFP

YANGON

In a rare visit to Myanmar, China's Foreign Minister meets junta chief

AP

China's Foreign Minister met Myanmar's junta chief on Tuesday, the military said, making him the highest-ranking Chinese official to meet the country's top general since a coup more than two years ago. China "stands with Myanmar on the international stage", Foreign Minister Qin Gang told junta chief Min Aung Hlaing. AFP

KAMPALA

Despite President's plea, Uganda MPs pass new draft of anti-gay Bill

REUTERS

Uganda's Parliament passed a new draft of anti-gay legislation, retaining many draconian provisions despite the President's call to rework an earlier version of the Bill. "We have a culture to protect. The Western world will not come to rule Uganda," parliamentary speaker Annet Anita Among said. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia summons Polish envoy over embassy school closure in Warsaw

REUTERS

Russia on Tuesday summoned the Polish embassy's charge d'affaires after Warsaw closed a school run by the Russian embassy. Poland had seized the school building on Saturday, saying it belonged to the city of Warsaw and was operating without legal basis. Russia said the move violated international agreements. AFP

Ranil renews vow to resolve Sri Lanka's ethnic question

The Sri Lankan President hopes to reach an agreement with all parties by the end of the year; he had previously failed to meet this year's February 4 deadline set for the same goal

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Monday said he hoped to reach "a mutually agreeable solution" on the island nation's long-pending ethnic problem by the end of the year, renewing an old promise.

"My intention is to address the ethnic problem in the country while implementing the agreement with the International Monetary Fund. We are currently in discussions, and I hope to reach a mutually agreeable solution by the end of this year," he said in his May Day address, of his talks with the Tamil political parties. "It is important for us to move forward while respecting and protecting the rights of all communities including the majority Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim, and Burgher minorities without marginalising anyone. We are all committed to achieving this goal," he said.

This is the second time that Mr. Wickremesinghe has made the pledge after his ascent to Presidency last year. He had promised to resolve the country's persisting ethnic problem by February 4 this year, when Sri Lanka marked its 75th year of Independence, but failed to meet the deadline he set for himself.

Inextricable situation: Ranil Wickremesinghe said it is important to move forward by respecting the rights of all communities. AFP

TNA's participation

The Tamil National Alliance (TNA), the main parliamentary grouping of MPs from the north and east, participated in the talks with the President, despite initial reservations stemming from past attempts. The TNA also presented a set of five actionable points to the President, pertaining to land and police powers, and devolving more administrative powers to the provincial councils, and is awaiting action for months now.

Fourteen years after the end of a devastating civil war, Sri Lanka is still faced with the problem that drove the country into decades-long strife. Apart from their historic struggle for self-determination, and their persisting demand for truth and justice for war-time civilian deaths and disappearances, Sri Lanka's Tamil community continues to battle several challenges, including an escalating attack on their lands.

Political call

Meanwhile, President Wickremesinghe is mulling early presidential polls next year and has reportedly reached out to different Tamil and Muslim parties, seeking their support, Opposition legislator Mano Ganesan told *The Hindu* in a recent interview.

In his May Day address, Mr. Wickremesinghe also underscored the need to "move forward with a new Constitution that reflects our shared values and aspirations." Although Tamil parties have voiced scepticism over the President's outreach, he said: "To the Tamil parties, I say that it is futile to distance oneself from this endeavour. If we are to address the issues faced by the Tamil community in this country, let us collaborate within this system, particularly in the Parliament as part of the government."

Prominent Palestinian on hunger strike dies in Israeli custody

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

A high-profile Palestinian prisoner died in Israeli custody on Tuesday after a hunger strike of nearly three months, Israel's prison service announced. His death set off a rocket barrage from the Gaza Strip and raised fears of a further escalation.

Khader Adnan, a leader of the militant Islamic Jihad group, helped introduce the practice of protracted hunger strikes by individual prisoners as a form of protest against Israel's mass detention of Palestinians without charge. On Tuesday, the 45-year-old became the first long-term hunger striker to die in Israeli custody.

In response to his death, Palestinian militants in Gaza fired 22 rockets toward populated areas in southern Israel, seriously wounding a 25-year-old man and moderately wounding two others at a construction site in the city of Sderot, Israel's rescue service said, identifying all three as foreigners. Their nationalities were not immediately clear.

Air raid sirens sounded and Israeli municipal councils opened public bomb shelters. The reverberations and shrapnel punched a hole into the street and charred cars, footage showed. Four rockets were intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome missile defence system, authorities said.

Staunch support: People hold portraits of Khader Adnan during a rally in Nablus on Tuesday after the announcement of his death. AFP

"This is an initial response to this heinous crime that will trigger reactions from our people," a coalition of Gaza-based Palestinian militant groups, led by the enclave's Hamas rulers, said.

General strike

Palestinians called for a general strike in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and protesters rushed to Israeli military checkpoints in the occupied territory, slinging stones at Israeli soldiers. Israeli forces fired tear gas and rubber bullets at crowds gathered at the northern entrance to the West Bank city of Ramallah. Early on Tuesday, Palestinian militants in Gaza fired another volley of rockets that landed in empty fields in Israel. Islamic Jihad said that its "fight continues and will not stop."

Bangladesh seeks India's help over Rohingya

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Newly elected President of Bangladesh Mohammed Shahabuddin on Tuesday urged India to take more effective steps in persuading Myanmar to take back the Rohingya who were forced to take refuge in Bangladesh to evade persecution in the neighbouring country.

"The President made the request when Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Kumar Verma met him at Bangabhaban," a presidential palace spokesman told reporters here.

Mr. Verma paid a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin and conveyed to him warm greetings from President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed recent bilateral developments.

During the meeting, President Shahabuddin said that Bangladesh has sheltered the Muslim ethnic minority community for humanitarian reasons, and their prolonged stay is creating problems not only for the South Asian country but for the entire region, in an apparent reference to the escalating security risks including terrorism.

Taiwan unsure of nations that will help if war breaks out

Associated Press
CANBERRA

Taiwan intends to fight for itself in any armed conflict with China and is unclear as to what countries might stand beside it, the self-governing island's Foreign Minister said.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary, and concerns are rising about a possible armed conflict.

In an interview on last Friday with *Sky News Australia*, Joseph Wu said Taiwan, with a population of 23 million compared to China's 1.4 billion, has to defend itself and is not asking other countries to fight for it.

However, asked who might fight alongside Taiwan in the event of a war with China, Mr. Wu answered, "This is a very good question."

'Strategic ambiguity'

"A lot of people are debating strategic ambiguity or strategic clarity, but to us, we know our own responsibility," Mr. Wu told the news channel from Taipei.

"Taiwan has to defend itself, the people have to defend Taiwan, this country, and we are determined to defend ourselves and we are not asking other countries to fight for Taiwan," Mr. Wu added.

Joseph Wu

U.S. President Joe Biden has repeatedly said American forces would help defend Taiwan, although U.S. official policy remains ambiguous over whether forces would be dispatched.

U.S. remarks

In comments on Tuesday evening, American Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns said Washington has been consistent in its approach toward Taiwan and insists that "any resolution of the (cross-Taiwan Strait) differences has to be peaceful."

The U.S. "has the obligation as well as the interest to make sure that we can provide defensive arms to Taiwan so that the Taiwan authorities can have a proper defense and we can help them build up a deterrence," he said.

Pakistan sees the highest inflation rate in South Asia

Reuters
KARACHI

Pakistan consumer prices rose a record 36.4% in the year to April, the highest inflation rate in South Asia, up from March's previous record of 35.4%, the statistics bureau said on Tuesday.

Pakistan's rural areas recorded food inflation of 40.2%. Food inflation for both rural and urban areas reached 48.1%, the highest since FY16 when the bureau started recording the categories separately.

Pakistan has been in economic turmoil for months with an acute balance of payments crisis while talks with the International Monetary Fund to secure $1.1 billion as part of a $6.5 billion bailout have not been successful.

The country has taken measures to try to secure the funding, including removing caps on the exchange rate, resulting in a depreciating currency, increasing taxes, removing subsidies and raising key interest rates to a record high of 21%.

Prices rose 2.4% in April from March.

Persistently high inflation has resulted in major lifestyle and consumption changes, with a number of people seeking help.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM – POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in

Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders are invited for **Provision of Painting work for class rooms of APS ASC C & C**. Call for Quotations (also uploaded on website for reference) to be collected from school office after submission of DD in favour APS ASC Centre & College for ₹ 100/- from 03 May to 09 May 2023 (1000 hrs to 1300 hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 10 May 2023 at 11.30 AM.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM – POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in

Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders are invited for **Provision of Painting work for first floor of Adm Block of APS ASC C & C**. Call for Quotations (also uploaded on website for reference) to be collected from school office after submission of DD in favour APS ASC Centre & College for ₹100/- from 03 May to 09 May 2023 (1000 hrs to 1300 hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 10 May 2023 at 11.30 AM.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

OPEN TENDER NOTICE SAI

Sports Authority of India, NSSC, Bangalore invites a quotations for following:-

SAI/NSSC/ES/24-02/2/2022/VE/CON to sale following condemned / unserviceable vehicles at SAI, NSSC, Bangalore.

Sl No	Vehicle Name	Model
01	Swaraz Mazda	1988
02	Maruthi Van	1998
03	Staff Car (Ambassador)	2002
04	TATA 407	1995

The Last date of Submission of sealed tender is 22.05.2023 up to 12.00 hrs.

For more details please visit website www.saibengaluru.com

Sd/-
Regional Director I/C

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is given on behalf of my client Smt. Gogga Sridevi, wife of Sri.Gogga Karthik Swamy, aged about 38 years, resident of #277, 31st Ward, 5th Cross, Behind Sahakari Kalyana Mantapa, N.C.Colony, Hosapete-583201, Vijayanagar District, that the property more particularly described in the schedule hereunder have decided to purchase the said property.

Therefore any person(s) having any claim in respect the property mentioned below or part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lien, license, hypothecation, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any trust right of prescription or pre-emptor under any agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order of Awarder otherwise claiming, howsoever, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned at their office at M/s.Ananya Comfortss, opposite State Bank of India, Railway station road, Hosapete-583201, within a period of 14 days (both days inclusive) publication hereof failing which the claim of the such person(s) deemed to have been waived/abandoned.

SCHEDULE - A - PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the residential converted immovable property bearing Sy.No.36/2, measuring 1 Acre and 13 Guntas, (57,717 sqft) converted by the Special Deputy Commissioner (R), Bangalore District, Bangalore, Vide No.ALN SR(SB) 124/2008-09, dated 20.02.2009, presently comes under BBMP limits, Ward No.193, BBMP katha bearing No.612/36/2, situated at N Yanappanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, bounded on: East by: Large mass stone, Sy.No.37, West by: Road and property belongs to Narayan Raju, North by: Land bearing Sy.No.36/1 belongs to Lingamma Navara Munireddy, South by: Remaining portion of land bearing Sy.No.36/2 belongs to Nagaraja Reddy.

SCHEDULE - B - PROPERTY

270 Sq Ft of undivided share in the land comprised in the Schedule-A -property

SCHEDULE - C - PROPERTY

2 Bedroom apartment bearing No.F-413 on the Fourth Floor, "A" Block in the building known as "SURAKSHA GOLDEN PALMS" constructed on the schedule "A" property with a super built-up area of 750 square feet (which is inclusive of proportionate share in balconies, common area attributable thereto) with access to the retrace area, that is lift room and water tank for repairs with exclusive right use one car parking space in the stilt floor, vitrified flooring, doors and windows are made by ordinary wood.

Dated 20th April, 2023

Sd/- B. Zakir (Advocate)
Roll No.KAR/2382/2007, Hosapete-583201.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby informed that my client **Mr. Hanumantha Reddy N S/o. H. Nagappa and Mr. H.N. Krishnamurthy S/o. H. Narasimhaiah** is the absolute owner of the Sy No 168/6 Extent of 0 Acres 0.5 Guntas, 168/16 0 Acre 0.5 Guntas, Sy No 35 04 Acre 13 Guntas, Sy No 2/11 0 Acre 1 Guntas, Sy No165/3 0 Acre 3.5 Guntas,Sy No 108/2 0 Acre 32 Guntas, Sy No 135/1 0 Acre 10.5 Guntas, Sy No 142/2 0 Acre 4 Guntas, under the registered sale deed dated: 10/12/1967 land situated at Kodathi Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East. With respect to schedule properties Original suits are pending before the Hon'ble Assistant Commissioners Court at Bengaluru. Hence, general public are cautioned not to deal with below mentioned schedule property. If anybody try to deal with the schedule property my client will not be held responsible. Hence, this public notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of lands in **various Survey numbers of Kodathi Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East, Bengaluru.**

Sl. No.	Sy.No.	Extent	East	West	North	South
1.	168/6	0 Ac 0.5 G	Rangappa House	R Munishami Reddy	Balappa	Krishnappa
2.	168/16	0 Ac 0.5 G	Venkatappa	R Munishami Reddy	Nanjundappa	Mariyappa
3.	35	4 Ac 13 G	Papaiah	R Munishami Reddy	Chairman Ramaiah	Venkatappa
4.	2/11	0 Ac 01 G	Kumbarara Munishami	R Munishami Reddy	Nagappa	Nagappana Etthalu
5.	165/3	0 Ac 3.5 G	Shanubhogara Enamthi	R Munishami Reddy	Channagappa	Kere Katte
6.	108/2	0 Ac 32 G	Annayyappa	R Munishami Reddy	Dodda Annayyappa	Dasappa
7.	135/1	0 Ac 10.5 G	Chandraswamy Devara Enamthi	R Munishami Reddy	Pal Pillaiah	Chikka Papaiah
8.	142/2	0 Ac 04 G	Narayanappa	R Munishami Reddy	Narappa	Chinnappa

Lokesh. K, Advocate.
No.1, 2nd floor, Above Mayura Bekary,
Giriyamma Circle, Devanahalli Town,
Bengaluru Rural District, Mob No.9880700758.

Date:03-05-2023
Place : Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, our clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owners **(i) Mrs.AMUDHA W/o late Mr.K.Elango** and her children namely **(ii) Mrs.PAVITRA RAJESH, (iii) Mrs.SUJITRA** and **(iv) Mr.THIRUMALESHWARAN.E,** residing at No.305, Sands Galaxy Apartment, Geethanjali School Main Road, Kaggadasapura, C.V.Raman Nagar, Bengaluru-560093. The Owners represent that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property and they have good marketable, right, title and interest therein.

Apart from the above owners, if any person has any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same shall be filed with the undersigned with supporting documents, within **14 (Fourteen) days** from the date of this Notice. Objections and or the claims received after expiry of the stipulated time will not be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed with the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the vacant residential **BDA Site bearing No.898, PID No.3320070214,** measuring East to West 12 Mtrs and North to South 18 Mtrs, in all measuring 216 Sq.Mtrs, situated at **Banashankari 6th Stage, 7th Block,** Bengaluru and bounded as follows:

East by : Site bearing No.899
West by : Site bearing No.897
North by : Site bearing Nos.875 & 876
South by : Road

Sd/- BAYYA REDDY. M
For ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP
Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, 4th Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex, 22nd Main Road,
BSK 2nd Stage, Opp : Banashankari BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070.

INBRIEF

TVS Motor posts fourfold increase in iQube sales

TVS Motor Company said it had registered a fourfold increase in electric scooter iQube sales for April at 6,227 units from the year-earlier period despite constraints. The two- and three wheeler manufacturer said in a statement that production for April 2023 was constrained due to the AIS-156 norms changeover and supply chain challenges. The electric scooter has successfully transitioned to AIS-156 phase 2. The company is confident of ramping up production from May.

Tata Steel Q4 net plunges 84% to ₹1,566 cr. on lower income

Tata Steel posted a steep fall of 84% in its consolidated net profit to ₹1,566.24 crore during the quarter ended March, dragged by lower income. Total income declined to ₹63,131.08 crore from ₹69,615.70 crore. Total expenses rose to ₹59,918.15 crore from ₹57,635.79 crore. The board recommended a dividend of ₹3.60 per equity share of ₹1 each for FY23, as per a filing. In a separate statement, the company said its net debt stands at ₹67,810 crore. PTI

NMDC posts record output at 3.51 MT, 3.43 MT sales in April

India's largest iron ore producer NMDC reported April output increased more than 11% to 3.51 million tonne (MT), while sales at 3.43 MT was nearly 10% higher. This was the best ever performance in April in the company's history, NMDC said. In the corresponding period, the production was 3.15 MT and sales 3.12 MT. The record output and sales came on the back of the company surpassing the 40 MT production mark for the second fiscal consecutively in FY23.

Gaming policy, tax norms need more calibration: FM

Policy certainty, transparent taxation norms will make it possible to attract foreign investors in sectors like gaming, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tells Indian diaspora in South Korea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government is deliberating on the appropriate taxation and regulatory regime for the gaming industry which "requires a lot more calibration", Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday, adding that foreign investments into the sector could be expected to materialise once the policy became clear.

Speaking to the Indian diaspora in South Korea during her visit for the Asian Development Bank's annual meeting, Ms. Sitharaman acknowledged that India still didn't have a coherent policy on gaming even as some States had drafted their own policies.

Setting terms: Centre deliberating on tax, regulatory norms for gaming, FM says in Korea, where she is attending an ADB meet. PTI

"The Centre is looking at it through the GST Council which has had a lot of discussion, because that is going to be an indirect tax. There was also a group of ministers appointed by the Council to look at what gaming is doing... its employment potential, what is the consumption.

"But the taxing and regulating requires a lot more calibration and that's where there is a lot of discussion going on at the ministers' level. I think... once the policy certainty arrives and the taxation becomes more transparent and clear, it would attract investors," Ms. Sitharaman said when asked about India's plans to attract gaming businesses including from Korea and Japan.

Centre to alter offshore mining law to spur private participation

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The government has finalised amendments to the Offshore Mining law of 2002 under which "not a single rock has been mined from the seabed yet," and will introduce it in Parliament soon, Union Mines Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj said on Tuesday.

The proposed changes, for which consultations have been concluded, will facilitate private sector participation in the mining of non-atomic minerals in India's territorial waters and continental shelf. The Mines Ministry is also working with five States to auction 21 mines this year.

Stressing that the Offshore Area Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 2002, had resulted in no actual mining, largely due to litigation, the Secretary said consultations on the proposed changes to the law had been concluded. "It would be shortly debated by Parliament, hopefully very soon," he said.

While the government would continue exploration efforts after the "lucky" discovery of lithium reserves in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Bharadwaj said industry must focus on more efficient processing technologies for critical minerals. He cited the example of China, where the maximum lithium ore was processed in the world even though that country did not have the largest reserves of lithium.

UCO Bank posted record net in FY23

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

UCO Bank said it registered the highest-ever annual net profit, which doubled to ₹1,862.34 crore in the 12 months ended March 31.

For Q4 FY23, the lender's net profit surged 86.2% to ₹581.24 crore.

"Global deposits scaled to the highest level of ₹2,49,337.74 crore as on 31.03.2023 against ₹2,24,072.90 crore as on 31.03.2022 registering y-o-y growth of 11.3%," according to the bank.

The lender registered the highest-ever net interest income, which increased 13.4% to ₹7,343.13 crore, said MD and CEO Soma Sankara Prasad.

Gross NPAs slid to 4.78% from 7.89%, a reduction of 311 basis points. Net NPAs fell by 141 basis points to 1.29%, from 2.70%.

Punjab & Sind Bank Q4 profit climbs 32%

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Punjab & Sind Bank reported that its fourth-quarter net profit grew 32.1% to ₹457 crore from the year-earlier period owing to improvement in asset quality. During the quarter the bank's operating profit surged 69.1% year-over-year (YoY) to ₹536 crore.

Return on asset improved 23 basis points (bps) and return on equity rose 259 bps.

Gross NPA (non-performing assets) was down to 6.97% from 12.17% in the year-earlier period. Similarly, net NPA was lower at 1.84%, from 2.74% a year earlier. Recovery & upgradation was to the tune of ₹1,153 crore, doubling from the year-earlier period.

Full-year profit rises

For the financial year ended March 31, 2023, the bank reported that its net profit grew 26.4% to ₹1,313 crore. Net interest income rose 12.1% to ₹2,973 crore.

Total deposits grew 7.37% to ₹1,09,665 crore. Gross advances at ₹80,982 crore was 15.1% higher than the previous year.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,355	0.40
US Dollar	81.87	-0.06
Gold	60,075	0.15
Brent oil	75.89	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1919.85	-5.10
Adani Ports	681.50	0.20
Apollo Hosp	4490.80	-22.90
Asian Paints	2899.55	-2.80
Axis Bank	870.65	10.65
Bajaj Auto	4498.00	66.05
Bajaj Finserv	1349.05	-5.60
Bajaj Finance	6249.15	-30.95
Bharti Airtel	790.20	-9.10
BPCL	361.10	3.50
Britannia Ind	4511.05	-42.50
Cipla	917.70	9.65
Coal India	236.10	3.00
Divis Lab	3253.70	-14.20
Dr Reddys Lab	4950.40	20.55
Eicher Motors	3356.15	55.05
Grasim Ind	1739.55	19.25
HCL Tech	1067.55	3.45
HDFC	2790.00	14.40
HDFC Bank	1687.25	-0.35
HDFC Life	544.50	14.75
Hero MotoCorp	2495.90	-62.70
Hindalco	446.15	10.05
Hind Unilever	2451.70	-5.60
ICICI Bank	922.10	4.45
IndusInd Bank	1150.90	-1.90
Infosys	1277.45	24.70
ITC	424.45	-1.10
JSW Steel	737.90	12.60
Kotak Bank	1921.15	-16.90
L&T	2384.45	20.05
M&M	1237.30	10.40
Maruti Suzuki	8776.85	187.30
NestleIndia	21745.85	-15.55
NTPC	175.60	3.60
ONGC	164.25	5.30
PowerGrid Corp	240.10	2.85
Reliance Ind	2441.05	20.55
SBI Life	1150.90	10.80
State Bank	575.30	-3.00
Sun Pharma	973.05	-14.60
TataConsumerProduct	779.60	15.75
Tata Motors	480.25	-4.70
Tata Steel	110.30	2.35
TCS	3219.40	0.15
Tech Mahindra	1053.45	29.75
Titan	2663.85	22.00
UltraTech Cement	7456.60	-99.60
UPL	752.50	12.20
Wipro	388.35	3.35

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 02

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.68	82.00
Euro	89.61	89.97
British Pound	101.92	102.32
Japanese Yen (100)	59.48	59.72
Chinese Yuan	11.82	11.87
Swiss Franc	91.04	91.40
Singapore Dollar	61.15	61.40
Canadian Dollar	60.17	60.41
Malaysian Ringitt	18.29	18.38
Australian Dollar	54.68	54.90

Source:Indian Bank

Minda to seek CCI nod for Pricol stake

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Automotive component manufacturer Minda Corporation has decided to approach the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for approval to invest in equity shares of Pricol, which would increase Minda Corporation's stake in the company up to 24.5% of all outstanding shares.

Minda acquired 1,91,40,342 equity shares, representing 15.7% of Pricol's total issued and paid-up equity in February this year. At a meeting of its Board on May 1, Minda decided to file an application with the CCI to make an investment in equity shares of Pricol which would raise its stake up to 24.5% of total equity shares of the company, it told the National Stock Exchange.

Takeover threat

Vikram Mohan, Managing Director of Pricol, told *The Hindu* in February that the promoters of Pricol hold a 37% stake and that the company had put in place legal and financial measures to fend off hostile takeover attempts.

'NMDC in talks for lithium with Hancock'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Indian iron ore miner NMDC Ltd. is in talks with Australia's Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd. for lithium exploration and mining, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters on Tuesday.

Ashok Leyland sales grew 10% in April

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) has reported a 10% increase in April sales in domestic and overseas markets at 12,974 units.

While the medium and heavy commercial vehicle bus volume grew by 82% and light commercial vehicles by 21% over the year-earlier period, truck offtake slid by 4%, ALL said.

A company official said usually sales in the first month of any fiscal used to be lower compared with other months as preset buying would have happened in March. The outlook for the current fiscal looked promising and the sales volume would be higher than last fiscal, the official added. In FY23, ALL's cumulative sales rose by 50% to 1,92,205 units.

LIC unveils group medical benefit scheme

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced Group Post Retirement Medical Benefit Scheme, a non-linked, non-participating, life, group savings insurance product, with effect from May 2, for those employing 50 or more persons.

The plan also offers a fixed life cover benefit (sum assured) to each member, LIC said in a release on Tuesday.

'Retail leasing more than doubled in Q1'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's retail-sector leasing more than doubled year-on-year to 1.5 million sq. ft. across eight cities in the first quarter of CY2023, said CBRE South Asia, a real estate consultancy.

Supply during this period surged more than fourfold to 1.1 million sq. ft. Ahmedabad led the absorption with a 27% share, followed by Delhi-NCR at 26%, and Bengaluru and Chennai with 14% each. Fashion and apparel segment had a majority share in total leasing activity at 31%, CBRE said. "We believe retailers will seek spaces beyond conventional malls and high streets to diversify their location plans," said Ram Chandnani, MD, Advisory & Transactions Services.

Sport

Ashish enters the pre-quarterfinals

WORLD BOXING

Sports Bureau

Olympian Ashish Kumar Chaudhary (80kg) overcame a tough challenge from Iranian Meysam Gheshlaghi to record a 4-1 win and enter the pre-quarterfinals of the World boxing championships in Tashkent on Tuesday.

In a trading of explosive punches, Ashish seized the initiative by landing lusty combinations in the first period of the opening round contest. Following a slow start, 2021 Asian silver medallist Gheshlaghi impressed with well-directed hooks and uppercuts.

The Iranian closed the gap and showed more aggression to connect a few headshots, but Ashish, also an Asian silver medallist, executed decent counters to stay ahead.

The taller Ashish displayed his fine footwork and evasive techniques to score off counters in the final three minutes and take the bout. He will face top-seeded Cuban Arlen Lopez Cardona next.

Harsh Choudhary (86kg) suffered a 0-5 loss to Australian Billy McAllister.

Harsh relied on his counter-attacks against McAllister's superb combinations. The Indian, who received medical attention for a cut on his right eyebrow midway through the second and third rounds, fought bravely before bowing out.

A Chinese world chess champion is quite a story

Back in 1970, Bobby Fischer got into the Inter-zonal because Pal Benko stepped aside, going on to win it by a margin of 3.5 points. He was never behind, except against Boris Spassky, and we all know his match for the world title.

Similarly, in Ding Liren's case, he had not qualified at all. This may have had something to do with the COVID restrictions, but nonetheless he hadn't qualified.

Sergey Karjakin had to get himself banned for his conduct. Ding had to play multiple games against his compatriots to meet the qualifying criteria for the Candidates, which was dominated by Nepomniachtchi. Ding finished second in the last minute by beating (Hikaru) Nakamura in the last game from a drawn position. If the game had ended in a draw, Nakamura would have been playing the title-match, instead of Ding.

Moreover, with Magnus Carlsen giving up his world title, a spot became available for Ding. He didn't lead once in the match. And when he led, it was over.

Six decisive games? That's insane. All the things that people were saying about classical chess... that in World Championship matches teams are well-prepared and fight, these two guys went at each other with gusto. They seemed to be happy to take the battle in each other's territory. Ding went to insane levels to destabilise the position and we had a phenomenal match. This was the most exciting match that anybody can recall.

In the rapid tiebreaker, there were multiple moments that could have gone one way or the other but nothing sensational. And finally (in the fourth rapid game), Ding had the courage to try something with Rg6. By itself, the move doesn't win. But if you don't try and just agree to perpetual checks, then you won't win.

What he showed is that sometimes you must make a bold attempt to win something. You have to take the risks. And like I said, it has a little bit of this miraculous quality. He was so unlikely to become a world champion. I mean, firstly, it was impossible, because he hadn't qualified.

Then, after multiple events, we now have a Chinese world chess champion. It's quite a story!

Solid player

Ding has a reputation of being a solid and technical professional player. His openings were well thought of and his playing methods modern. There was nothing to suggest otherwise but what was funny in this match was that their roles reversed.

Ding started to take risks like he has never taken before, and seemingly went to unbalance the position of his opponent. Maybe, it was really Richard Rapport's influence on him.

Nepo, as he had already shown in the previous match, had prepared thoroughly well. He was happy to participate and get into the mud with Ding. And they fought brilliantly.

The fact that we had so many decisive results, and there could have been even more, tells you a little bit about how hard they fought. The main thing was that they just fought like crazy. That's what made this match so special.

In my opinion, Nepo was the better player in this match, but he was more unstable. Ding played quite out of character with his risk-taking approach and everything, at least, initially. Afterwards, circumstances forced him to take the risks when he fell behind. But he equalised in powerful style but somehow never surged ahead.

Indian girls lose both league matches

Sports Bureau

Thailand scotched India's hopes with a 2-1 victory in the second league match of the Asia-Oceania Junior Billie Jean King Cup under-16 tennis in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Tuesday.

India will play Mongolia in the last league match.

The results (league): Thailand bt India 2-1 (Kamonwan Yodpetch bt Sejal Bhutada 6-1, 6-2; Lidia Podgorichani bt Asmi Adkar 6-4, 7-6(3); Maya Boonya & Kamonwan lost to Asmi & Aakruti Sonkusare 6-3, 3-6, [7-10]).

Chinese Taipei bt India 2-1 (Yu-Ning Tsai bt Sejal Bhutada 6-3, 7-5; Li-Ya Chu lost to Asmi Adkar 4-6, 6-4, 1-2 (retired); Yi-Ching Huang & Yu-Ning Tsai bt Asmi & Sejal 6-2, 6-4.

VETERAN'S FEAT

Amit Mishra becomes IPL's third-highest wicket-taker

Amit Mishra surpassed Lasith Malinga to become the third-highest wicket-taker in the IPL on Monday. The 40-year-old spinner achieved the feat during LSG's match against RCB in Lucknow. In 160 matches, Mishra has taken 172 wickets at 23.75 and an economy rate of 7.34. Malinga has 170 scalps to his name.

BIG BLOW

Rahul's injury was a setback and we were a batter short: Bishnoi

Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (two for 21), who was instrumental in restricting Royal Challengers to a low total, was a disappointed man as Lucknow Super Giants slumped to its third straight home defeat. "K.L. Rahul's injury was a big blow and we were a batter short due to that," said Bishnoi, blaming the batters for the reverse.

DELIVERING THE GOODS

Uthappa impressed by Karn's show against Super Giants

Former India player Robin Uthappa was impressed with leg-spinner Karn Sharma's performance for RCB against LSG on Monday. "He was dropped after performing so well. He didn't figure in the side after Hasaranga came into the XI. You can never have too many leg-spinners in a T20 game, can you?" said Uthappa.

EXPRESSING REGRET

Harbhajan Singh looks back on the slap-gate row

Harbhajan Singh on Tuesday said that he was ashamed of slapping Sreesanth during the inaugural IPL in 2008 . "I am ashamed of what I did to Sreesanth in 2008. Virat Kohli is a legend, should not get involved in such things. Whatever happened between Virat and Gambhir was not right for cricket," Harbhajan tweeted.

Ishant keeps his nerve as Capitals pip Titans in thriller; Shami's spell in vain

The Delhi pacer defends 12 in the final over; the Gujarat speedster returns stunning figures of 4-0-11-4, but Hardik & Co. fail to cross the finish line

IPL-16

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

Mohammed Shami, with the overcast conditions and the pitch aiding him, ran through the Delhi Capitals top-order as the visitors registered the lowest total (130) for a team batting first at the Narendra Modi Stadium in IPL 2023. With David Warner's men having a mediocre season, there was also a poor turnout in the largest cricket stadium in the world.

But, at the end of the day, the 43,471 spectators who turned up to watch the match got their money's worth. The bowlers ensured that the Capitals' late-order fightback did not go waste as they successfully defended the total. The five-run victory was Capitals' third in nine games.

When Ishant started the last over, Titans needed 12. Captain Hardik Pandya, who played anchor, was still at the crease while Rahul Tewatia was at the other end. The latter smashed a hat-trick of sixes off Anrich Nortje in the 19th over to bring down the equation to 12 off six from 30 off nine.

Ishant used his experience, landing wide yorkers to deny the Titans duo. The pacer dismissed Tewatia off the fourth delivery as the Gujarat side failed to cross the finish line. Ishant's last-over heroics will be remembered as much as Shami's scintillating spell earlier in the night.

Wily old fox: Ishant used his skill and experience to deny Titans and trigger celebrations in the Capitals camp. VIJAY SONEJI

Titans' spearhead decimated the Capitals line-up with a lethal spell (4-0-11-4). It took Aman Khan's impressive innings and Ripal Patel's cameo at the death to guide the visitors to 130 for eight from a precarious 23 for five in five overs. Phil Salt was dismissed off the first ball of the match, hitting straight to David Miller at short-cover. When Warner was sent back by Priyam Garg and was run out at the non-striker's end in the next over, the floodgates opened for Titans.

Having half the side back in the dugout, and an ailing Mitchell Marsh missing the game, Axar Patel scripted a recovery in the company of Aman. Though Axar perished, Aman's maiden IPL half-century and Ripal's big hits turned out to be game changing.

Next assignment

GT: May 5 vs. **RR**
Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.

DC: May 6 vs. **RCB**
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

Phil Salt c Miller b Shami 0 *(1b)*, David Warner run out 2 *(2b)*, Priyam Garg c Saha b Shami 10 *(14b)*, Rilee Rossouw c Saha b Shami 8 *(6b, 2x4)*, Manish Pandey c Saha b Shami 1 *(4b)*, Axar Patel c Rashid b Mohit 27 *(30b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Aman Khan c Abhinav b Rashid 51 *(44b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Ripal Patel c Hardik b Mohit 23 *(13b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Anrich Nortje (not out) 3 *(6b)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-3, nb-1): 5; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 130.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Salt, 0.1 overs), 2-6 (Warner, 1.1), 3-16 (Rossouw, 2.5), 4-22 (Pandey, 4.1), 5-23 (Garg, 4.6), 6-73 (Axar, 13.6), 7-126 (Aman, 18.3), 8-130 (Ripal, 19.5).

TITANS BOWLING

Shami 4-0-11-4, Hardik 1-0-10-0, Little 3-0-27-0, Rashid 4-0-28-1, Noor 4-0-20-0, Mohit 4-0-33-2.

GUJARAT TITANS

Wriddhiman Saha c Salt b Khaleel 0 *(6b)*, Shubman Gill **(Impact Player in place of Mohit)** c Pandey b Nortje 6 *(7b, 1x4)*, Hardik Pandya (not out) 59 *(53b, 7x4)*, Vijay Shankar b Ishant 6 *(9b, 1x4)*, David Miller b Kuldeep 0 *(3b)*, Abhinav Manohar c Aman b Khaleel 26 *(33b, 1x6)*, Rahul Tewatia c Rossouw b Ishant 20 *(7b, 3x6)*, Rashid Khan (not out) 3 *(2b)*; Extras (w-5): 5; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 125.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Saha, 0.6), 2-18 (Gill, 3.1), 3-26 (Vijay Shankar, 4.6), 4-32 (Miller, 6.4), 5-94 (Abhinav, 17.1), 6-122 (Tewatia, 19.4).

CAPITALS BOWLING

Khaleel **(Impact Player in place of Garg)** 4-1-24-2, Ishant 4-0-23-2, Nortje 4-0-39-1, Kuldeep 4-0-15-1, Axar 4-0-24-0.

Toss: Capitals.
PoM: Shami.
Capitals won by five runs.

Kohli, Gambhir fined 100% of match fees

Acrimony: Kohli and Gambhir were seen having a heated argument after RCB won the match. SPORTZPICS/IPL

Press Trust of India
LUCKNOW

Virat Kohli and Gautam Gambhir added another chapter to their bitter rivalry as they got involved in an ugly face-off.

Kohli and Gambhir were seen having a heated argument after the Bengaluru-based side won the match by 18 runs on Monday night.

Both were on Tuesday fined 100% of their match fees for breaching Article 2.21 of IPL code of conduct, which relates to public acts of misconduct, unruly public behaviour and inappropriate comments detrimental to the interest of the game.

While the players were shaking hands after the match, LSG bowler Naveen-ul-Haq – who was also fined 50% of his match fee – and Kohli were seen exchanging words and RCB's Glenn Maxwell separated them.

This was followed by Gambhir pulling away Kyle Mayers while the latter was speaking to Kohli.

Just after that, Gambhir was seen charging towards Kohli even as the LSG players, including the injured captain K.L. Rahul, tried to restrain him.

The last time when LSG and RCB clashed in Bengaluru, Gambhir had gestured towards the crowd with a 'shut up' sign.

Points table

	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Gujarat Titans	9	6	3	12	0.532
Rajasthan Royals	9	5	4	10	0.800
Lucknow Super Giants	9	5	4	10	0.639
Chennai Super Kings	9	5	4	10	0.329
Royal Challengers Bangalore	9	5	4	10	-0.030
Punjab Kings	9	5	4	10	-0.447
Mumbai Indians	8	4	4	8	-0.502
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	3	6	6	-0.147
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	3	5	6	-0.577
Delhi Capitals	9	3	6	6	-0.768

*After the GT-DC match on May 2

Super Giants meet Super Kings, get a chance to redeem home record

M.R. Praveen Chandran
LUCKNOW

Injury-hit Lucknow Super Giants will get another chance to end its jinx at home when it takes on Chennai Super Kings at the Ekana cricket stadium on Wednesday.

The Super Giants' skipper K.L. Rahul (injured thigh) has joined Jaydev Unadkat (bruised elbow) on the recovery table. The Lucknow camp is tight lipped about the extent of injuries to both players. "The medical team is monitoring them" is the only message coming out of the LSG camp.

After its famed batting line-up failed to chase 127 runs against RCB, Super Giants has to change its batting approach as the match against Super Kings will be played on a similar slow surface. Most of the Super Giants batters self-destructed with rank bad shots and they need to play with more discipline against Super Kings, who have enough ammunition in the spin department to exploit the conditions at the Ekana cricket stadium.

With the experiment of promoting Ayush Badoni as an opener failing, the Super Giants may be tempted to play Quinton de Kock if Rahul is unfit. Deepak Hooda's poor form is a worry and it is time for Indian players in the LSG ranks to fire collectively to end the team's slump.

Chennai Super Kings will be hoping for a turnaround after two consecutive losses and it will fancy its chances against the under pressure Super Giants. With a host of in form batters in Devon Conway, Rituraj Gaikwad, Ajinkaya Rahane and Shivam Dube, Chennai has enough firepower in batting. But again adaptability will be the key factor again in this contest.

Back to the drawing board: Super Giants will need to change their batting approach for a chance to end their jinx at home. PTI

TODAY'S MATCHES

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS vs. CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Lucknow, 3.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **2**
LSG 1 | CSK 1
PREVIOUS MEETING
CSK won by 12 runs, 2023

PUNJAB KINGS vs. MUMBAI INDIANS

Mohali, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **30**
PBKS 15 | MI 15
PREVIOUS MEETING
PBKS won by 13 runs, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

A high-scoring game likely between MI and PBKS

Ayan Acharya
MOHALI

There will be some nervous looks skyward with rain threatening the IPL 2023 match between Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings at the IS Bindra Stadium here.

Both teams are facing similar challenges ahead of the Wednesday evening fixture.

Punjab beat Mumbai in its last meeting, with Arshdeep Singh bowling an excellent final over. But MI and PBKS bowlers have generally struggled at the death.

Among those who have bowled at least 18 balls between overs 17 to 20 this season, five of the 10 highest economy rates belong to MI and PBKS. They need to make marked improvements.

The dew may not be a big concern because of the overcast weather, but the side batting first would eye an above-par score. PBKS will be wary of the fact that it has the second-lowest average for an opening pair this season (20.88).

Smart player: Raza, who ran between the wickets sensibly against CSK, can use the long-handle. R.V. MOORTHY

Meanwhile, MI needs to find a way to use Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma at No. 3 and No. 4. Pushing Ishan Kishan down and opening with Cameron Green could be an option.

Mumbai and Punjab's strengths lie in the depth of their batting, and Mohali has usually been a batting-friendly surface.

PBKS conceded 257 here against Lucknow Super Giants, the second highest in the IPL's history, and another high-scoring match is likely, weather permitting.

India regains top spot in Tests, remains No.1 in ODIs

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

India has overtaken Australia to regain the No. 1 position in the ICC men's Test team rankings following the annual update that drops results from the 2019-20 season and reflects all series completed since May 2020.

India's rating points have moved up from 119 to 121 as its 2-0 defeat to New Zealand in March 2020 no longer figures in the rankings, which assesses series completed prior to May 2022 at 50% and subsequent series at 100%.

India was last at the top for a month in December 2021.

Australia has slipped from 122 to 116 as its home series wins over Pakistan (2-0) and New Zealand (3-0) in 2019-20 no longer figure in the rankings.

INBRIEF

Belgium's Brecel wins snooker World Championship title

Belgium's Luca Brecel became the first player from continental Europe to win snooker's World Championship as he beat four-time champion Mark Selby 18-15 in the final in Sheffield on Monday.

SNAPSHOTS

Bajrang and Sakshi criticise IOA

NEW DELHI: Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik on Tuesday took on the Indian Olympic Association top brass directly, slamming them for their comments and actions on not just the ongoing wrestlers' protest but also the entire issue of sexual harassment in Indian sports.

"We had heard of how politics changes people and destroys relations, now we are seeing that happen. If as a woman and the IOA president you cannot understand the problems of a female athlete, what will you do with such power and position?" Sakshi questioned, talking to select media, as their protest entered the 10th day.

Foxes climb out of bottom three

LEICESTER: Everton's Alex Iwobi rescued a 2-2 draw against relegation rival Leicester, but it was the Foxes who climbed out of the Premier League's bottom three after Monday's pivotal showdown.

The results: Premier League: Leicester 2 (Soyuncu 22, Vardy 33) drew with Everton 2 (Calvert-Lewin 15-pen, Iwobi 54).

Saviour: Everton's Alex Iwobi shoots at goal. REUTERS

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Kipkorir Kimeli and Cheptai will look to defend their titles

Kenya's Nicholas Kipkorir Kimeli and Irene Cheptai will return to defend their men's and women's crowns respectively at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru (May 21). Kipkorir Kimeli and Cheptai set the track on fire last year, setting new records of 27:38s and 30:35s respectively.

Also in the men's fray is Ethiopian Birhanu Legese, a two-time winner of the Tokyo Marathon and a former champion of the Delhi Half Marathon and the Tata Steel Kolkata 25K, and Kenya's Sabastian Sawe, who finished seventh at this year's World Cross Country Championships in Australia.

Among women, Ethiopia's Dera Dida, who won the Dubai Marathon in February, and Tsehay Gemechu, who took second place at this year's Tokyo Marathon, will be of interest.

Infosys Foundation and GoSports' initiative

Infosys Foundation, the philanthropic and CSR arm of Infosys, will collaborate with GoSports Foundation to build the 'Girls for Gold Program', a high-performance excellence program for junior and emerging women athletes.

The program will span an initial term of four years and will identify and support progression of talented Indian women athletes aged between 13 and 19 through collaborations with academies and coaches in India. The program will include scholarships, coaching, access to academies and performance recognition.

The first cohort of supported academies range across five sporting disciplines comprising shooting, boxing, weightlifting, table tennis and badminton.

They are – Lakshya Shooting Club, Mary Kom Regional Boxing Foundation, Sathish Sivalingam Weightlifting Foundation, Raman TT High Performance Centre and Yadav Pro Badminton Academy.

All-round show by Faheem

An all-round effort by Faheem (60 and four for 16) helped PESCA CBT defeat RCA Mysore by 130 runs in the Tiger Cup under-12 cricket tournament here on Tuesday.

The scores:

Just Cricket Academy 119 in 27.2 overs (Lokesh Reddy 45, K. Raghav 26, Mahin Srikanth 3/22) lost to KCC Gurukul 121/1 in 18 overs (Vineet Patil 59, Deep 27).

PESCA CBT 257/1 in 30 overs (Samar Modhe 94, Faheem 60, Aarav Srivastava 55) bt RCA Mysore 127 in 27.4 overs (C. Dhanush 28, Faheem 4/16).

Faiz scores a hat-trick

Faiz Abbas scored a hat-trick, and Hitesh Thakur and Rakesh Nagesh a brace each, as Jai Bharath Nagar FC blanked Crescent FC 10-0 in the BDFA C-division football league championship here on Tuesday.

The results: Jai Bharath Nagar FC 10 (Sandesh 41, Anthony 6, 46, Hitesh Thakur 7, 46, Rakesh Nagesh 24, 51, Faiz Abbas 28, 29, 41) bt Crescent FC 0; Freedom FC 9 (Vijay Bharath 5, 10, 29, Lokesh 17, 32, Azariab 22, 30, 36, Sashikanth 43) bt Maharaja Socials FC 1 (Chhiten Tamang 6); Agaram FC 3 (Nelson Stanly 9, Anush 10, V. Gowtham 18) bt Hampi Nagara FC 1 (Srihari Bhatt 24); Gowthama FC 7 (Sanjay 1, 23, Anto 33, Santhosh 35, 43, Prithivi Raj 42, Jaya Surya 52) bt UFA Banaswadi FC 0.

Suman stars in National SC's win

Suman scored 22 points as National SC Mysore thrashed Davanagere BC 80-45 in a boys' match at the State under-16 basketball championship here on Tuesday.

The results:

Boys: BCYA 57 bt VNSC 51 (Krishang 17); Bangalore Vanguards 54 (Keerthi 20, Yogith 12) bt Rovers BC Dharwad 19 (Satvik 10); Nationals SC Mysore 80 (Suman 22, Kushal 19) bt Davanagere BC 45 (Adithya 24, Kaushik 17); Bagalkot BC 49 (Yamanappa 10) bt Mysore BC 20; Inspire BC Dharwad 50 (Vihan 20, Samarjeet 14) bt MCHS 46 (Adithya 27).

Koramangala SC 60 (Laksh 15, Kalmadi 12) bt Merchants BC Davangere 16; Bharath SU 50 (Nischal 8) bt Young Bulls BC 15; Appaiah BC 45 (Pavan 11, Rajashri 11) bt YCBC Bellary 20.

Girls: Appaiah BC 46 (Linisha 13, Hasini 12) bt VNSC 12 (Eva 10); All Star Academy Mysore 49 (Aanchal 21, Sharvani 13) bt Vimanapura SC 14.

PPC 54 (Mabel 16, Riddhi 11) bt Rajkumar BC 07; Rajmahal SC 45 (Yashaswi 25) bt YMMA 09; Bangalore Vanguards 54 (Kushi 10) bt HBR BC 8; MCHS 54 (Aditi 18) bt Cincinatics BC 7.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5 a.m.

ATP Madrid Open: Sony LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.

Pakistan vs New Zealand: 3rd ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday).

When the element of danger makes for thrilling television

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

T20 cricket is the format where an intended cover drive edged behind the wicket for four is a better stroke than a classic cover drive that fetches only one run. That is understandable. Means don't matter, ends do.

The question is, does that apply to all cricket now? Will commentators be telling us, "It doesn't matter how they come so long as they come" as a matter of course?

Or does it still matter how they come? One of cricket's conceits has been the importance of getting the 'how' right.

Watching the effectiveness of the overhead flick, the hopeful swish and the roundarm heave (strokes are invented faster than their descriptions) at the IPL, the question asks itself: have all technical discussions on batting been rendered irrelevant? Even an otherwise elegant batter like Rohit Sharma sometimes gets into awkward positions as he attempts that one shot to flummox both bowler and fielder.

All about effectiveness

The Virat Kohlis, Ajinkya Rahanes and Yeshaswi Jaiswals have shown that runs can be made by tried and tested methods; Jaiswal's century against Mumbai Indians must rate as the best this year, perhaps in the tournament itself. When he swung Joffra Archer over the stands he seemed to have lots of time to play the shot, a sign of class and confidence. But the format doesn't encourage style over substance; it is all about effectiveness. Youngsters are told it doesn't matter where your feet are or how far apart your hands on the bat so long as the ball disappears into the crowd.

Back in the 1980s, the South African Barry Richards, then considered the finest batsman in the game (despite having played only four Tests), wrote that cricket technique had changed.

He faced howls of protest from traditionalists who insisted that technique cannot change. You played the forward defensive shot (remember that?) in just such a way or the on-drive as recommended by the coaching manual. Any deviation was morally wrong.

This despite the example of batters like the great Garry Sobers who made a brilliant 254 in Australia (which Don Bradman considered the best innings seen in that country) without classical footwork. There was no question of the front foot getting to the pitch of the ball or anything like that. Yet he was never less than elegant. It was an innings of power played with casual ease. That is Sobers, he is a genius, said the traditionalists; normal rules don't apply to him.

And now we discover that normal rules don't apply to the journeyman batter either. Even the number seven or eight in the lineup is capable of hitting the best into the stands. The batter might not always look in control or balanced or elegant while doing so, but his coach will not complain. The irony is that a country which once worshipped at the altar of orthodoxy now lives for the unconventional.

For nearly a decade after they played their first One-Day International, India didn't take the shorter format of the game seriously. Their best batsman, Sunil Gavaskar, played with a straight bat and immaculate footwork, and that was the Indian way.

It was only after he made 90 in Berbice and helped India beat the West Indies, then World champions, that we began to take the format seriously. In less than a year India beat them again to win the World Cup.

Victory justified technique, or lack of it, just as it did in 2007 when India won the T20 World Cup. Till then they hadn't taken that format seriously either.

Yet, there may be something dazzling about the manner in which a fast bowler is flicked over a falling batsman's head. Suryakumar Yadav has looked comfortable playing this against bowling that could cause physical injury. It is this element of danger that makes it all so thrilling for television.

Cricket is a hard game played with a hard ball and batters making it harder still by throwing themselves in the path of the ball.

One of cricket's blessings is that there is a format for experimentation existing alongside a format for those who want to play by the coaching manual. In T20 the batter is judged as much by the runs he scores as the intent he shows.